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Ivry panel cautions four officers

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The Ivry Commission investigating the February 4 helicopter collision, in which 73 soldiers and officers were killed, has sent out letters of caution to three IAF officers and an officer in the Northern Command. The move paves the way for recommendations to be made against them.

The wording of the invitation to the four to study the investigation "out of the possibility their good names may be harmed" is a military euphemism for cautioning them that their testimony could be used against them. The four have hired lawyers, who are reportedly seeking a delay in the commission's discussions in order to prepare a possible defense.

The four officers named are Brig.-Gen. G, the commander of Tel Nof Air Base, where the CH-53 helicopter squadrons are based. Yasur squadron commander Lt.-Col. E, his deputy, Maj. Y, and Maj. A, operations officer for the Galilee Panhandle brigade.

According to the commission's interim report, Maj. Y briefed the pilots of the fatal flight to fly in formation, but did not appoint a formation leader. Maj. A was cited with faults in making sure the soldiers who boarded the helicopters were properly logged. The commission stressed that the cautions in no way signify direct responsibility for the collision.

According to Channel 1 television, the four officers are allowed to examine all files in the investigation and question any witness. The four have been invited to commission hearings in another six days.

The commission of inquiry, headed by former air force chief David Ivry, was originally given 45 days to present its final findings and had been expected to do so within the next two weeks. But the letters of caution open the door to further delay.

Cabinet to decide on next withdrawal today

PM, Mubarak meet in Cairo

News agencies

CAIRO - The cabinet is to meet this afternoon in a special session to decide on the extent of the first further withdrawal from the territories since the Hebron pullout in January. According to the Hebron agreement, the IDF must make the first of three more redeployments in Judea and Samaria by tomorrow.



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak meet in Cairo yesterday. (Reuters)

PA offices served closure notices, Page 2

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is to convene his inner cabinet this morning to prepare a withdrawal proposal.

Netanyahu and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak concluded two hours of talks on the peace process yesterday by disagreeing about whether the Oslo Accords bar the building of Jewish housing in Jerusalem.

Both Mubarak and Netanyahu urged moving forward with peace talks, but they appeared tense and sometimes angry as questions arose at a news conference about Israel's plans for 6,500 housing units on Har Homa, in southern Jerusalem.

Netanyahu denied the housing project is prohibited by the Oslo Accords and said he confirmed this with the Israeli negotiators who helped frame the agreement.

"Oslo is very clear," he said. "It doesn't deal at all with the question of Jerusalem. In fact it makes clear that any actions regarding changing the status involve, as Oslo terms it, the West Bank and Gaza. It specifically excludes Jerusalem."

Mubarak, however, pointed out that the agreement's Article 5 states that Jerusalem's future is to be negotiated in talks for a final peace and argued that moving more Jews into east Jerusalem now would prejudice those negotiations.

"My feeling is that it [the housing project] will lead to problems in the future when they start on the final status of Jerusalem," he told reporters.

Mubarak said he would further discuss the Har Homa issue next week in a meeting in Washington with President Bill Clinton, who also has criticized the plan.

At the news conference with Netanyahu, Mubarak was also asked about the case of alleged Israeli spy Azzam Azzam. Mubarak

said the matter is out of his hands now that it has entered the judicial system.

Netanyahu said on Tuesday that Azzam, a 35-year-old chief mechanic who was working at an Israeli-owned factory in Egypt, is innocent and that the case would be at the top of his agenda in talks with Mubarak.

Asked if he would agree to release the Israeli, Mubarak said: "This case is before the court. We have no authority to exclude it from the court until it comes to an end. Before that we are not authorized, even our constitution doesn't give us the right to do anything or to release him."

Mubarak again said that Israeli

publicity about Azzam's case had damaged his chances and he compared it to an earlier incident in which the Egyptian authorities discreetly set free two suspected Israeli spies.

"With the last one [Azzam] there is definite proof according to the investigation done by the court. So that's why we could not release him," he said.

"The first two were released before going through the media. When the media declared about Azzam, we were in a position not to leave him and he should defend himself. If he is innocent, he is going to be released without any problem," he added.

Netanyahu stood to Mubarak's side but did not comment on the espionage case throughout the news conference.

Two of Azzam's supporters accompanied Netanyahu to Cairo to plead his case. They said they visited Azzam in prison yesterday and that he was being treated well.

Assad Assad, an adviser to Netanyahu and a former member of the Knesset, told reporters he discussed Azzam's case with Mubarak's senior political adviser Osama Baz.

"I found Azzam in good shape. Egyptian prison authorities are treating him well. I have faith in the Egyptian justice and judiciary," Assad said.

COMMENT

She'ar Yashuv helicopter crash: A month later

By HERB KEINON

The regularly scheduled television programming on the night of February 4 was interrupted by a news flash that always signals disaster: two helicopters crashed over She'ar Yashuv. The dimensions of the tragedy, 73 dead, shocked the nation, left us stunned in our tracks. Our regularly scheduled lives were interrupted, put on hold.

A national day of mourning followed, and with it the broadcasting of the endless list of names. Then came the gut-wrenching stories of the lives lost, and then came the funerals. The nation stood as one - unified in pain, together in grief.

For a day... maybe half a week. But it didn't take long for the unity that the tragedy engendered to be plowed under by the rock-slide that is the Bar-On Affair. It didn't take long for the unity to be drowned out by the noise surrounding Har Homa. How quickly everything returns to normal.

Today marks 30 days since the helicopter disaster. The 30-day, halachically prescribed mourning period - the *shloshim* - varies for each family, since this period is counted from the day of interment, not from the day of death.

The next few days will, for the families, be a time of trips to the cemeteries, of looking at pictures - if that is not too painful. It will be a time for the families to relieve that awful night which, in their minds, will forever be the moment against which all else will be measured. There will be before, and there will be after.

For the rest of us the helicopter disaster will be stored somewhere in our memory, as yet another of those awful tragedies that, with cruel regularity, plague the land. It will be stored - perhaps near the top of the list, due to its magnitude - with the bus bombings, the roadside bombs in Lebanon, the victims

of other IDF accidents. When we think of it we will be beset by sadness - so we will try not to think about it.

This nation's resiliency, its uncanny ability to bounce back, is both a strength and - to a certain extent - a weakness. A strength, because only incredible resiliency could enable the survival of a nation so well acquainted with tragedy. A weakness, because only in times of tragedy do we remember what unites, what is important.

It is not uncommon to use man as a metaphor for the nation. A death in the family always puts things into perspective, into proper proportion. For a family it generally takes a while for the magnitude of the loss to diminish, for life to return to normal. Thus does Judaism set aside a 30-day mourning period for an immediate relative, a 12-month mourning period for a parent.

The nation, our nation, speeds things along. Not a year was needed to digest the loss of February 4, and to move on. Not even 30 days. To a certain extent, not even a week. Everything quickly returned to normal.

Is this necessary? I guess so, if we are to function as a normal country.

Is it heartless? To a certain extent.

We have turned into a nation of *parshiot* - of episodes, affairs, and incidents. The rhythm of our public life is marked by jumping from one parasha to the next: from the Hebron redeployment, to the helicopter accident, to the Bar-On Affair. Events follow one another in such rapid succession that we have no time to digest the significance and ramifications of one, before we are hit by another.

The helicopter tragedy, when it struck, drowned out the Bar-On Affair for about a week. But then the Bar-On Affair bounced back. The same will not be true of the helicopter tragedy. It is gone. We spent our time on that particular parasha, and have moved on. We muttered the words, performed the gestures, and then moved on. We always move on.

Turbowicz says no to Bezeq

By JUDY SEGEL

Attorney Yoram Turbowicz, appointed by a Justice Ministry committee from becoming Bezeq's director-general on March 1, last night shocked Communications Minister Limor Livnat by saying she would have to find someone else for the job.

Livnat, who had nominated the former director of the Antitrust Authority for the Bezeq post, was very distressed by Turbowicz's decision and tried to dissuade him, but with no success.

She will appear today at Bezeq's board of directors meeting, where officials are expected to speak angrily against the "cooling off" committee, chaired by Jerusalem District Court Judge Yehudit Tsar, which ruled that Turbowicz would have to wait a year before taking the job.

The board will name an acting director-general; Livnat's choice was not known last night.

She told Turbowicz that his declining of the Bezeq position was a "loss to the company and to the entire public service, which deserves and needs the best."

The 38-year-old lawyer faxed Livnat a letter saying he was disappointed about the committee's decision, but nevertheless "respected it."

Livnat had intended to take the case, in an unprecedented action, to the High Court or ask for a repeat hearing of the cooling-off committee.

But Turbowicz does not want to appeal.

Swiss president proposes second 'humanitarian' fund

BERN - Swiss President Arnold Koller yesterday proposed creating a second "humanitarian" fund that would use millions of francs in income from Swiss official gold reserves to aid victims of human rights abuses, catastrophes and the Holocaust.

The "Swiss Foundation for Solidarity" would be set up next year, in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the Swiss Constitution, Koller told a special joint session of parliament.

Christoph Blocher, an industrialist and member of Parliament, immediately rejected the idea, saying the council "has lost its head."

Israel, however, hailed the plan.

"Any action taken by the Swiss government in the direction of dealing with these issues in order to try and correct injustices of the past is certainly welcome," said Moshe Fogel, head of the Government Press Office.

Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, a leader in the campaign for Swiss restitution, said, "This is without doubt a far-reaching decision."

Abraham Foxman, the head of the Anti-Defamation League, said the Swiss move now puts pressure on the other nations neutral during the war - Sweden, Spain, Turkey and Portugal - to come to terms with their wartime



Swiss President Arnold Koller speaks at a joint session of parliament in Bern yesterday, when he announced the establishment of a humanitarian fund. (Reuters)

part of the gold and invest the proceeds for the foundation, Meyer said.

Even though the Swiss intend to take 10 years to sell off the gold to avoid any impact on the price, the world's gold markets reacted with concern to Koller's announcement. The price of gold dropped about \$4 an ounce to about \$354 by late afternoon.

The Swiss franc would still be completely backed by gold and retain its value in world money markets, Meyer said, adding that it would probably take two years before the foundation could begin operating.

David Harris adds: "Creating this fund is an act of goodwill for people of any race," said Knesset Jewish property restitution subcommittee chairman Avraham Herschson (Likud). "Any initiative like this is to be welcomed."

"But let me say this as clearly as possible: nothing can hide the accounts that were opened by Jews in Swiss banks, and we're calling for the revelation of all these accounts, no matter whether they set up this fund or any other."

Policeman dies of injuries from riot

By DAVID RUDGE

Chief-Supt. Effi Keinan, the police officer who was critically injured after being struck by a car during riots in Jisr e-Zarka village near Hadera on Sunday night, died at Haifa's Rambam Hospital yesterday.

Keinan, 37, head of the Haifa police district's intelligence unit, is survived by his wife, Leah, and three children. He will be buried at 11:30 a.m. today in the police section of Haifa's Neveh David Cemetery.

"Today I feel a bit foolish and naive. For so many years he was in danger and I didn't sense it," Leah Keinan said yesterday. "I had a feeling that small things would happen to him... but I never felt that something [this] had to happen to him. He radiated so much strength, security, and ability that he convinced us all."

The announcement of his death cast a pall over the Haifa district police headquarters. His coworkers described him as a man of principles, a very conscientious and diligent colleague who would be sorely missed.

Supt. Shlomit Minkovski, spokesman for the district, said Keinan would not normally have been called out, but that night he was the duty officer and went to the scene to supervise operations aimed at restoring calm in the village.

Minkovski said the violence erupted when a group of residents attacked outsiders who had come to the village apparently to do business with local drug dealers. Stones, bottles, and other objects were thrown at the outsiders, several cars were damaged, and people were injured as the rioting spread. When police arrived, they became targets.

Reinforcements were called and police used tear gas to quell the rioting. The situation was almost under control when Keinan was struck by the car.

"One of the residents got into his car and drove toward where all the police were concentrated," Minkovski said. One policeman almost was run down by the car before it swerved and headed towards Keinan and Supt. Yitzhak Sadch.

"The other officer managed to jump clear, but not Effi, who was hit by the car and dragged for several meters," Minkovski said.

The driver, Mohammed Hamis A'amash, 23, was arrested and later remanded by Hadera Magistrate's Court on suspicion of attempted murder. He now may be charged with murder.

A'amash has denied deliberately driving at the officers, claiming he had tear gas in his eyes and because of that lost control of the car.



MDA president Prof. Shlomi Antebbe (left) and Palestinian Red Crescent Society president Dr. Fathi Arafat discuss ways their organizations can help one another, at a meeting at Jerusalem's American Colony Hotel yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

MDA and Red Crescent discuss cooperation

By JUDY SEGEL

Magen David Adom will help the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) train medics and ambulance drivers, while the PRCS will work for MDA's recognition by the International Red Cross (IRC) and its becoming a full member rather than just an observer.

These matters were discussed yesterday in the first official meeting between MDA president Prof. Shlomi Antebbe and PRCS president Dr. Fathi Arafat at the American Colony Hotel in Jerusalem. Arafat, the brother of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, also gladly accepted Antebbe's invitation to visit MDA headquarters in Tel Aviv.

The two physicians - both of them pediatricians and the youngest of the seven children in their families - found they have a lot in common during the two hours they discussed - "in a very warm atmosphere" - how to strengthen links between their humanitarian organizations.

Antebbe said Arafat asked for assistance in organizing the studies at the PRCS's new school for emergency medical technicians (including medics, blood collectors and ambulance drivers) in El Bireh; another one is due to open in Gaza. The MDA president said his organization has much experience and Arabic-language training materials for high-level courses.

Until now, the Civil Administration has facil-

itated courses at MDA for Palestinians, but now the Palestinians are setting up their own facilities, and ambulance drivers are urgently needed, Antebbe added.

The two will meet again soon in Tunisia at an assembly of IRC Mediterranean countries and further discuss plans for MDA to become a full-fledged member of the international first aid and rescue organization. Antebbe explained that while political opposition has prevented this so far, the peace process has broken down opposition among Arab countries, and that even before the Oslo process began, Arafat told the IRC that MDA should be accepted.

Arafat said he would like to cooperate fully with MDA in the fields in which it has expertise.

Panel blames lax procedures for foreign worker influx

By Jerusalem Post Staff

A disregard of administrative procedures by the former head of the Employment Service led to the "uncontrolled influx" of foreign workers, a committee appointed by Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai said in a report issued yesterday.

Former service director-general Alex Faran acted to change procedures when he was in office until the end of 1966, concentrating all authority in his hands without any form of checks and balances, the report said.

Faran said he was supported and encouraged to be personally involved in the issuing of permits by former labor and social affairs minister Ora Namir, the report said.

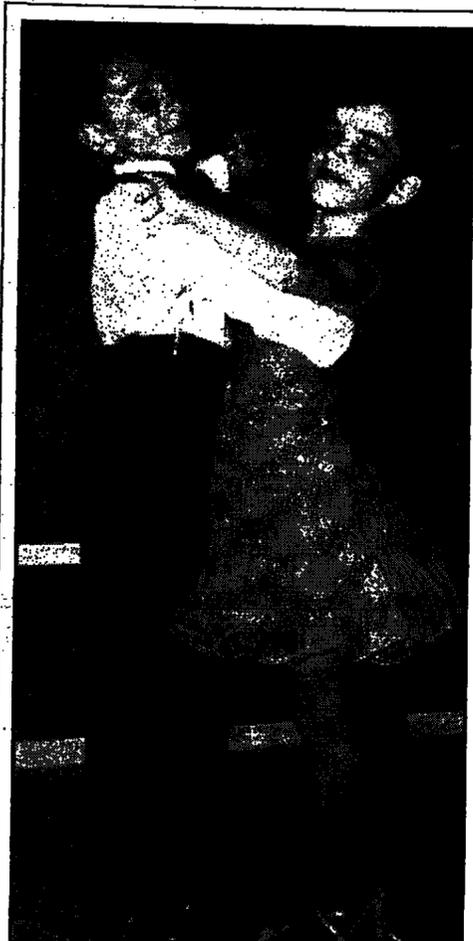
Faran also did not adequately monitor the granting of permits, and did not computerize the registry of foreign laborers, it added. Permits were granted to some 105,000 foreign workers by the end of 1996, compared to 13,000 at the beginning of 1994, the report said.

Instead of internal committees deciding on permits for foreign laborers according to sector, Faran formed committees with the participation of interested parties, whose dominance resulted in the issuing of 85 percent of the permits to the construction and agriculture sectors.

In the building sector, the Contractors Association became involved in the issuing of up to 70,000 work permits in 1996, while the Moshav Movement acted to obtain as many as 17,000 permits.

"In this way, the Employment Service transferred its authority to others who had special interests," the report said.

Yishai adopted the conclusions and recommendations of the committee, which was headed by ministry deputy director-general Eli Paz and included other ministry officials.



Future world champions?

Ten-year-olds Eli Tinkelman (left) and Yelena Tchatchko get ready to compete in the Third International Ballroom Dancing Competition to be held in Ashdod March 13-14. Six couples from the 135 pairs from 11 countries competing will reach the finals of each category (Latin, European, mixed). The couple winning the Latin crown in the 16-35-year-old group will represent Israel at the European championship in Germany in June. (Erez Felton Kaye)

Education Ministry chief: No preference for haredim

AT THE KNESSET

Bill would expand memorial day

By LIAT COLLINS

Not a single shekel for additional classroom construction in the haredi sector has been allocated at the expense of other Education Ministry projects, ministry Director-General Ben-Zion Dell said yesterday.

Responding to accusations that such classrooms are allotted according to coalition deals, Dell said the budgets for their construction had been transferred to the ministry as a supplement approved by the Treasury and the Knesset Finance Committee.

Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) had denounced press reports that haredi MKs allocate classrooms according to coalition agreements, but he also criticized Dell for reportedly admitting this was the case.

Ravitz said that, according to the system determined this year, classrooms are built according to need. "The local authorities make their recommendations to the development authority and the authority determines its priorities according to principles of equality," he said.

A bill to broaden Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars to include terror victims passed its first reading yesterday. Proposed by Hanan Porat (National Religious Party), it passed 37 to nine with two abstentions.

The bill would allow relatives of terror victims to take the day off work for memorial services, just as the families of fallen soldiers can.

Porat said he proposed the bill at the suggestion of terror victims' families, who felt hurt they had no national day on which to remember their loved ones.

'Ambulance chasing' bill passes first reading

A bill to bar commercial interests from bothering bereaved families in the first hours of their loss passed preliminary reading yesterday. Under the bill, those who know of a death because of their work - such as hospital or ambulance staff, police, or burial societies - would not be allowed to pass on the name of relatives to commercial enterprises. The mail boxes of bereaved families are commonly flooded with fliers for stonemasons and other such services just after they learn of their loss.

Labor submits no-confidence motion

The Labor faction has filed a motion of no-confidence in the prime minister over what it calls "his incitement against and attacks on the democratic regime" made at the Likud convention Sunday.

"There is no precedent for an Israeli prime minister inciting against the rule of law," said faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen. "The Labor faction has no confidence in the great demagogue and speaker Binyamin Netanyahu."

Voting abroad in first year only

Israelis abroad would only be able to vote in national elections that take place the first year they are out of the country, under a bill proposed by Roman Bronfman (Yisrael Ba'aliya), which passed preliminary reading 30 to 13 yesterday. It was presented to counter the bill being promoted by MK Ruby Rivlin (Likud) to allow emigrants the right to vote. Bronfman said his bill would allow tourists and temporary visitors to vote, but not expatriates.

Bill would ban promoting sex services

A bill which would ban the advertisement of sexual services passed preliminary reading by 11 votes to three yesterday. Hanan

Porat proposed the bill, which is supported by the government. Avraham Poraz (Shinui) opposed it, saying the ban would lead to illegal advertising in public places instead, such as the sort of announcements seen in London telephone booths. Poraz has submitted a bill to regulate prostitution by banning it from public and residential areas.

TV license fee may be outlawed

By a vote of 14 to nine, the Knesset passed preliminary reading of a bill by Benny Elon (MoleDET) which would abolish the Broadcasting Authority license fee. The authority should be able to fund its programs through commercials and other outside financing for cultural programs, Elon said.

'Same language' bill passes first reading

Public bodies would be obliged to reply to citizens in the same language they used, according to a bill which passed preliminary reading yesterday. Proposed by Yisrael Ba'aliya faction chairman Roman Bronfman, the bill did not have government support. The bill refers only to inquiries or requests made in Hebrew, English, Arabic, Russian, and Amharic.

New body set up to help scam victims

By ESTHER HECHT

Hundreds of immigrants from the CIS who lost their life's savings when they tried to transfer them here have found support in a new public committee.

The committee, comprised of professionals, academics and Knesset members, held its first meeting on Tuesday to discuss ways to persuade the government to resolve the immigrants' plight.

The immigrants lost thousands of dollars each when they tried to transfer money through companies to which aliya counselors referred them. Many of the counselors operated in conjunction with the Liaison Bureau, which is under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office.

Last week Ha'aretz reported yet another set of victims of a money-transfer scheme, this one in Siberia. It was run by Shmuel Azarch, today an adviser to the prime minister on immigration and absorption.

A public committee is necessary because "there are so many agencies that deal with immigrants, yet no one is really dealing with our problem," said Vera Gutkina, spokeswoman for more than 500 victims from Russia.

The police are not investigating, though more than 90 complaints have been filed, because the former attorney-general and the State Attorney's Office instructed them not to investigate, a police

spokesman said.

On December 30, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu raised the immigrants' hopes when he appointed a committee, headed by the justice minister and including the finance and absorption ministers, to examine their problem and present its recommendations within 30 days. More than a month after the set date, the committee has yet to present its recommendations.

Both the Russian and the Ukrainian groups have filed civil

suits against the companies involved and their heads, the Jewish Agency and the State of Israel. But legal action could drag on for years.

MK Naomi Blumenthal, head of the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee, has submitted a private member's bill calling for the establishment of a committee to determine compensation, to be paid by the state, for all immigrants from the CIS who lost money in similar schemes.

Burg: 1.2 million potential immigrants still in CIS

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Jewish Agency emissaries in the CIS are "knocking on the doors of Jews there, and not waiting for them to knock on ours," according to Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg.

Burg told the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee on Tuesday that there are some 1.2 million potential olim in the CIS. That number includes 700,000 families in which both husband and wife are Jewish, Burg said, adding that the sophistication of the governments in Russia and the rest of the CIS requires new organization by the agency.

Sixty percent to 70% of the agency's Aliya Department budget goes to the periphery in the CIS, since there is a greater chance to convince Jews there to immigrate, and at a smaller cost, he said.

Committee chairwoman MK Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) said that despite the fact that the governments in the CIS had become more stable, there is no guarantee that the Iron Curtain will not be lowered again, and Jews forbidden to leave. For that reason, she said, these Jews should be considered Jews in distress.

BIBI: STOP THE BUILDING ON HAR HOMA

The building on Har Homa threatens the continuity of the peace process, and further damages the fabric of coexistence in Jerusalem. Unilateral decisions are not the way to achieve either peace or security.

Join in a demonstration near Har Homa to oppose the construction

Saturday evening March 8, 6:30 p.m. Parking lot, Liberty Bell Park

PEACE NOW

An intoxicating sale

By DANIEL ROGOV

When Israel's first wine auction was held 16 months ago, it attracted a crowd whose enthusiasm seemed to know no limits. Tiroche held the sale, which was well organized and dignified. But some buyers seemed intent on bidding with no knowledge of the real value of the wines they were buying.

Others, competing compulsively, behaved more as if they were at a roulette wheel in Las Vegas than at a dignified auction. Bids were so high that many wines sold for four or five times as much as they would have at auctions in London or New York or even in the better wine stores of America and Europe.

Thankfully, behavior at the second auction was more restrained. A perusal of the wines being offered at Tiroche's auction houses indicate that its third auction, to be held on March 14 and 15 in Herzliya Pituah, will be their most serious to date. Concentrating heavily on the wines of Bordeaux, and with many wines from the splendid years of 1982, 1988, 1989 and 1990, the list of wines from top chateaux such as Latour, Margaux, Mouton Rothschild, Haut Brion, Lafite Rothschild and Cheval Blanc is impressive.

There are even several wines from the glorious years of 1945, 1947 and 1961.

Many first-time visitors to wine auctions report that they either spent more money than they had wanted to, or that once present, they were afraid to bid at all.

Both of these problems can be avoided so long as one firmly decides to adhere to a few guidelines.

Read the catalog carefully as

much in advance of the auction as possible. Marking your catalog before the sale begins is the best way to control the need to buy on impulse.

Be sure to check the price you would normally pay for a particular wine. The best bargains will not be in the wines from the great chateaux but for slightly lesser-known wines.

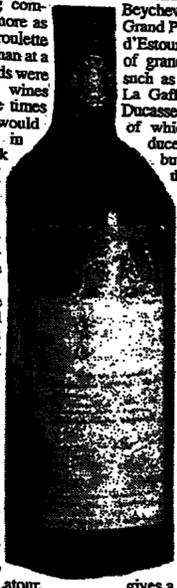
Consider especially the wines of chateaux such as Beycheville, Lynch Bages, Grand Puy Lacoste and Cos d'Estoumel and even those of grand cru classe wines such as those of Evangile, La Gaffeliere, Grand Puy Ducasse, and l'Angelus, all of which frequently produce wines as good as but far less expensive than those of their better-known neighbors.

Because many wines are sold by the case (12 bottles), it may be worthwhile to organize several friends and to bid as a group on the wines you all want.

It is wise to pay special attention to the vintage years of the wines that interest you. Although wines from specific chateaux often rise above the quality of their vintage, the general nature of the vintage year gives a good picture of the minimum value of the wine you will buy.

One warning is in order. Remember that although the auctioneer and the catalog give you whatever information is available, there is no guarantee that older wines (especially those more than 30 years old) will be drinkable. Also keep in mind that if you do not like the wines you buy, you cannot return them.

Additional information and catalogues can be obtained by telephoning Tiroche at (09) 950-9893.



Andrew Lloyd Webber's wines

Andrew Lloyd Webber's wines

In what should be one of the great wine auctions of the century, Sotheby's in London will auction composer Andrew Lloyd Webber's collection, on May 21.

Webber - who was recently made a lord - is best known as composer of the music for *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Evita* and *Phantom of the Opera*. He has decided to sell his collection. Sotheby's estimates the sale will bring in more than £2 million.

This is a dream cellar, virtually every bottle a great one. Catalogs and further information available by phoning Sotheby's Tel Aviv office at (03) 522-3822.

D.R.

Vintage years

The following are my evaluations of the vintage years for most of the red Bordeaux wines being offered at the Tiroche auction in Herzliya Pituah on March 14-15.

- GREAT YEARS:**
1990, '89, '86, '85, '82, '61
- EXCELLENT:**
1988, '81, '70
- VERY GOOD:**
1993, '83, '78, '75
- GOOD:**
1993, '80, '79, '71
- ABOVE AVERAGE:**
1987
- AVERAGE:**
1992, '84
- D.R.

FLAIR

Taking the deep plunge

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

As much as swimwear may look the same, there's always something novel in the fabric, cut, detail and color. The doubting Thomas need only look at the new Gottex and Gideon Oberson collections to be convinced. The collections by Israel's two major swim and beachwear designers are unique.

No designer can completely turn his back on international trends. But interpretations of these trends are the true test of their creative abilities.

As usual, mother-and-daughter team Leah Gottlieb and Judith Gottfried of Gottex and Gideon Oberson - who now designs under his own label for Kil Yotf - have passed the test with flying colors.

Because Oberson was showing around the pool of Tel Aviv's Dan Hotel, he gave fashion writers only a glimpse, albeit impressive, of his latest output (see photos).

Gottex, on the other hand, unveiled its collection in its own elegant factory showroom, affording media representatives the

opportunity to examine each of the garments on the rack, to feel the textures and to trace the subtleties of the designs.

Major global trends in swimwear today are the no-frills athletic look; the lingerie look with underwired bra cups and the flamenco inspiration with a white lace print on a black background.

The individual approaches to these trends by Gottex and Oberson is quite fascinating. In the lingerie look, for instance, Gottex does not confine itself to bra and panties, but also borrows liberally from the corsetelle. Oberson, on the other hand, adds large buttons to his bras and panties - a late '90s provocation.

Even more provocative are his sheer maillots which are diaphanous from just below the navel, with embroidered appliques sitting like badges or patch pockets on the breasts. Another version features an open flower design around the breast with jeweled embroidery over the nipple.

These particular suits were part of Oberson's grand finale. And to prove that they were practical as

well as decorative, all the models dived into the pool and began splashing each other.

Other than buttons, Oberson's main obsession this season is with ribbons, which are featured at the back and sides of maillots and in the back of softly tailored jackets that give a whole new meaning to beachwear coordinates.

Gottex has a lot of halterneck and one-shoulder maillots, scalloped necklines, shirred, draped and wrapped torsos, and a wide variety of cover-ups which include slinky black catsuits, maxi-length lacy coats, mid-length safari coats, plus pants, shorts, skirts, dresses and jackets. Truly magnificent in a tree-bark print is a long, backless dress with a twisted halter neck.

For those with an inclination towards opulence there are some wonderfully exotic gold-embossed prints in different shades of red, and semi-sheer horizontally striped caftans.

The Tahitian floral prints, which are integral to every Gottex collection, come in new arrangements and colors with a particular bias towards frangipani and hibiscus.

The pareo, which is another ever-present element in every Gottex collection, adds drama, worn sarong style or tied in a variety of eye-catching options. Oberson also uses the pareo as both a theatrical prop and a functional piece of cloth, but not to the same extent as Gottex.

Though neither Gottex nor Oberson has relinquished the high cuts which make their suits look

even sexier over shapely legs, both have submitted to the current fashion dictate of the low square cut which may look great on a svelte figure, but is not at all flattering to anyone with thick thighs.

The choices are so attractive that many women will be tempted to buy several suits this summer. But considering that the two-piece lingerie look-alikes can serve a double purpose, no one should feel guilty about over-indulgence.



CAVEAT EMPTOR!

By RUTHIE BLUM

New Cellcom subscribers, beware of how you read your customer service contract. The table provided listing fees to be paid for installation, subscription and airtime may be somewhat misleading.

The table shows a five-year price "forecast" as follows:

| Year | IF | MSF | Fee/minute |
|------|----|-------|------------|
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.0338 |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 0.1601 |
| 3 | 0 | 16.01 | 0.3202 |
| 4 | 0 | 16.01 | 0.3202 |
| 5 | 0 | 16.01 | 0.3202 |

IF - Installation fee
MSF - Monthly subscription fee

At the foot of the table there is a note in fine print: "Prices above are quoted in shekels and are correct as of December 27, 1994."

In July 1995, P.D. of Ra'anana

Hidden costs of mobile phones

signed a contract with Cellcom. In September of that year, he received his phone line. Three months later (in January 1996), he received a cellphone bill for NIS 0.175 per minute of airtime (a fancy way of saying 17 and a half agorot a minute).

"It is incomprehensible," wrote P.D. "that an Israeli company which won a tender... to compete with Motorola, should have a standard contract showing their price list for the first five years... and then increase prices after signing up thousands of subscribers."

Feeling duped and misled, P.D. submitted a letter of complaint to Cellcom - via a lawyer - exactly one year ago. His complaint was acknowledged and responded to promptly, albeit not to P.D.'s satisfaction.

Cellcom's explanation to its dissatisfied customer (and subsequently to me) was that the table listing the rates for the first five years refers to the first five years that the company is in business (from the end of 1994 until the end of 1999). It does not refer to the first five years of each individual customer's subscription.

After studying the terms of the license granted to Cellcom by the Ministry of Communications, I believe that there is no bad faith involved here. The table, however, would be much clearer if - rather than specifying the year "number" (i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) at the top - the actual year (i.e. 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999) were to be listed. Then, there would be no room for consumer confusion regarding the terms of the subscriber service con-

tract. And since the chapters of the license dealing with the standard contract between the company and the subscribers include a segment about "altering" the standard contract, perhaps Cellcom would exhibit good faith by changing the misleading table.

What P.D. may not realize is that the Communications Ministry keeps a hawk eye on the whole cellular phone industry. Ironically, the idea behind the "close watch" is to enable free-market competition. Just as Cellcom entered the market to compete with Motorola's monopoly, negotiations are currently under way to bring in a third such company to compete.

Nevertheless, ministry supervision regarding the quality of the phone lines and service to customers is

stringent. Cellcom's license requires that an annual report of consumer complaints be submitted to the ministry, which includes: "details of complaints submitted in writing by subscribers... the way in which they were examined and dealt with, and - in cases where [the complaints] were justified - the means by which the [company] corrected the ills..."

It remains to be seen whether P.D.'s gripe will be taken into account - or even considered justified. But, even if nobody does anything for this consumer, in the final analysis, his best weapon will be his "feet." When a third cell-phone company enters the market, all three will be wooing our business. At that time, P.D. and others like him can "march" their business elsewhere.

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

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MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SHOES - almost new, size 42-43, NIS 80 o.b.o. 02-586-6954.

RABBIT CAGE - small, NIS 30; large outdoor rabbit hutch, wood, NIS 175; cat litter box, NIS 25. 02-651-9821, NS.

DOUBLE OVEN AND GAS RANGE - works fine, NIS 250; large folding shopping cart, NIS 75; ironing table, NIS 25. 02-624-9961.

FISHER PRICE GARAGE - good condition, NIS 90; electric pizza cooker, used only twice, NIS 60. 02-535-5952, NS.

GLASS SERVING PIECES - large fruit bowl, NIS 50; cake stand, NIS 40; quiche and casserole dishes, NIS 40 each. Adina, 02-563-1761, NS.

KEROSENE HEATER - in good working condition, NIS 75. 02-673-4054, NS.

TRIVIAL PURSUIT - Master Game, Genus Edition and Baby Boomers, Silver Screen editions, like new, NIS 200 o.b.o. 02-585-0573, NS.

3 PAIRS MEN'S SNEAKERS - New Balance, slightly used: 350 RB, size 47, NIS 150; 655, 47, NIS 100; 656, 46, NIS 100. 02-570-1016.

LADIES' RAINCOAT - Dramamine, hardly worn, size M, NIS 100. 02-672-2156.

PLASTIC STACK BASKETS - Keter, NIS 6 each. 02-586-1308.

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KEROSENE HEATER - NIS 120; power heater, NIS 120. 02-566-0598.

DRUMS - Premier, from England, NIS 350, David, 02-991-9131.

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CLEARASIL DAILY FACE WASH - 3 bottles, plus Clearasil Vanishing Cream, maximum strength tube, NIS 60. 02-631-3748.

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SUNDRIRER - sealed bottles of TOP and ESE, NIS 75 each. 02-628-1874.

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2 FANS - great condition, NIS 150. 02-999-2342, NS.

3 ME'L ROBES - white on white, color trim and mixed, never worn, NIS 100 each. 02-563-0263, NS.

BERDWIN CARPET - hand-woven, wool, NIS 350 o.b.o. 02-585-9889.

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CUBAN CIGARS - Parteya y Parteya Slims. 06-656-7371.

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TRANSFORMER - for American microwave oven. 02-679-4889, even.

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THE BOY WHO COULDN'T STOP WASHING HIS HANDS - by Dr. Rapoport, to buy or borrow. 02-582-2875, NS.

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- Total cost of items per ad must not exceed NIS 350.
- The text must be printed clearly in English and submitted on the coupon below.
- The following are NOT accepted: business offers; apartment sales; rentals or exchanges; car sales; job offers; situations wanted; solicitations for donations; offers of marriage or other personal relationships.
- The right to reject or edit and ad is reserved.

Ads must be addressed to: Bargain Basement, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000 and must reach us by noon Thursday of the week preceding publication. Because of space limitations, ads may be held over and published the following week. The price of each item must be stated.

Name: _____ Tel: _____
Address: _____
MESSAGE: _____

NO QUERIES PLEASE!
If your ad was not published please resubmit coupon

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The right decision

The decision was the correct one. It overturned some precedents, and its timing could certainly have been better. But the decision earlier this week not to allow Yoram Turbowicz, the former head of the government's Antitrust Authority, to take over immediately as Bezeq's managing director, rightly placed public propriety above personal considerations.

intention of resigning from the Antitrust Authority. Although this is true, it still ignores the need to establish precedents based on principles. Livnat and Turbowicz also tried to preempt objections to the new appointment by volunteering that Turbowicz would refrain from personally representing Bezeq before Antitrust Authority deliberations. Although this is commendable, it still leaves room for conflicts of interest.

Anarchy in Albania

Once again in the Balkans, the European Union has backed a wrong horse in a troubled country and is now scrambling to formulate a cohesive policy out of its former ignorance and blunders. In Albania, the signs of trouble looming for a corrupt and tottering right-wing government have been plain for all to see for months.

US State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns was as disappointing as any European yesterday, when he ruled out stopping \$27 million in American aid to Tirana as "unproductive." He did say the government should "restore democracy, restore democratic rights to the opposition, restore rights to the journalists who are being intimidated."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PEACE WITH THE GOLAN PALESTINIAN VIOLATION FUNDS FOR REFUSENIKS
Sir, - In 1979, then-prime minister Begin made the regretful mistake when he gave all of Sinai to Egypt, and dismantled Yamit. This, together with the loss of hundreds of our soldiers in his war in Lebanon, may have caused his retreat from public life.



A spinner of stories

Stunned and outraged senior Likud members are pulling out their hair in frustration over their stage-manipulated committee meeting on Sunday. We would like to remind them of Baron Friedrich von Munchhausen, the 18th-century storyteller.

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG
But nothing will quieten Egypt's official hate campaign toward Israel. If Netanyahu thinks that delaying the bulldozers for a few days will get Mubarak to embrace him like some long-lost cousin, he and his advisers are living in cloud-cuckoo-land.

During his speech, Netanyahu promised a bonus for Israelis who travel frequently between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Not only would they benefit from the new, fast road, a railway line would also be built alongside it, ensuring that the distance between the two cities could be covered in 22 minutes.

The baron once related that he found himself sinking in a quagmire. So, he said, he ordered the hair on his head to grow - fast. His arms then grabbed his hair, by now a meter long, and he thus hauled himself to safety. This proverbial narrator of false or ridiculously exaggerated tales seems to have a worthy successor in our prime minister.

The premier's talent for fantasy is shocking to those who understand what is at stake
Netanyahu was making every effort to stall on his many promises about starting building, possibly hoping that they would die of inertia, the premier finally agreed to let the road building start today.

As entertainment goes, it's great. But when the future of Jerusalem is at stake, this kind of play-acting hovers on the brink of irresponsibility. The warnings of dangerous times ahead are, in any event, there for all to see.

Unexpectedly, the decision: The construction of some 2,600 units for Jews on Har Homa would be balanced by 3,500 new units for Arabs in the Jerusalem area.

Declared the prime minister in ringing and reassuring tones: "We will overcome the difficulties." What these difficulties were, however, he didn't explain. There is still no definite date fixed for work to begin at Har Homa.

Top intelligence specialists are convinced that on his return from the tumultuous reception accorded him by President Clinton and the US media, Yasser Arafat will threaten - and launch - violence against IDF soldiers and civilians unless Netanyahu gives him everything he wants.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



That's Marilyn Monroe in a rather unfamiliar role: as a porn star. Proof of Marilyn's sordid past surfaced in Spain at a film festival. The grainy, six-minute black-and-white film, made in 1947, showed the Hollywood legend at the age of 21, bare-breasted and engaging in explicit sex acts.

Point made

MARK ROSENBLUM

Prime Minister Netanyahu's rocky tenure has been a series of moves and feints in many directions. The Har Homa affair is the latest example of his indecision about where and how he wants to lead his nation. Last fall's Hasmonean Tunnel fiasco brought needless bloodshed and almost scuttled what was left of the peace process.

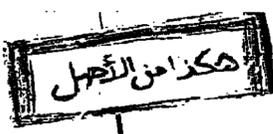
Having asserted the right to build at Har Homa, Netanyahu should shelve the project

er violent confrontation are even more dangerous. When Palestinian leaders call building at Har Homa "a declaration of war" and warn that "there will be an explosion," they do a grave disservice to the cause of reconciliation we share. Such threats will not and should not be permitted to determine Israeli policy.

POSTSCRIPT

THIS LOOKS like a must-see video now on the market in the US, but maybe you have to be Jewish to really enjoy it. SHVITZI! My Yiddisheh Workout advertises itself as "the world's only Yiddish exercise video." It's promotional material asks, as you would expect: "Why sleep to the gym?"

Vertical sidebar containing various advertisements including 'CREDIT CARD HOLDERS', 'FAX OR PHONE YOUR ADS IN.', and 'JERUSALEM: Tel. 02-531-5608'.



Hot line assists Poles who think they may be Jewish

The phone in the one-room office in a downtown building in Warsaw begins to ring every Thursday just as the sun dips into the soft gray horizon. The anonymous callers have one secret to tell. They think they may be Jewish.

A generation of Poles is now entering a new age of discovery, facing a puzzle of heritage as they piece together newly opened records with vague childhood memories. Others, listening to dying parents, are shocked by revelations of secret adoptions and well-meant lies.

A few bewildered Catholics who saw their faith as intrinsic to the struggle for a free Poland and to their Polish identity now are questioning who they are and whom they can trust. They seek plain talk from someone who will not recognize them, expose them or judge them.

They call the Jewish Confidence Line.

"What Madeleine Albright found out in America is happening every day here," said Stanislaw Krajewski, head of the Jewish Forum Foundation in Poland, a local organization that switched on the help-line four months ago.

Krajewski estimates that more than 100 people have called with questions about Jewish heritage in the 40 hours that the hot line has been taking calls. Some talk for 20 minutes. Some stay on the phone for hours. A small support group made up of callers has met three times.

"You know, there are hot lines for alcoholics, drug users, people with all kinds of problems. Of course, being Jewish is not a problem. We do not see it as a handicap. But it is an issue that some people here have difficulty dealing with," Krajewski said.

That point was driven home last Wednesday when the single surviving synagogue in Warsaw was set ablaze by vandals in what Jewish leaders here called Poland's most flagrant act of religious destruction in 30 years. The attack came two days after a bomb threat was telephoned to a Jewish foundation next door.

President Aleksander Kwasniewski quickly condemned what he called "an act of barbarity," inconsistent with "Polish culture, tradition of tolerance and respect toward" places of worship.

In a show of solidarity, government ministers, politicians, Protestant and Orthodox bishops and ordinary Poles trooped over to pray Wednesday night in the century-old building, its foyer charred and reeking.

Rabbi Michael Schudrich said later that the fire — which came a week after Parliament voted to restore Jewish property taken during World War II — could cause alarm among "all those people who are discovering their roots."

"Part of their concern is: Is it safe to be Jewish in Poland? This is not the kind of answer we want," he said.

Sentiment about Poland's once-vibrant Jewish minority reflects ambiguity. Antisemitism remains a problem in Poland and a disquieting challenge throughout Eastern Europe's democracies. An estimated 8,000 Jews now live in this country of 38



million. The prewar Jewish community was 3.3 million.

Since the fall of European communism in 1989, Poland's democratic governments have sought to improve ties with the Jewish community and with Israel. Kwasniewski, with his eye on acceptance into Western power circles such as NATO and the European Union, has been quick to denounce antisemitic incidents.

Still, a government poll released in January found nearly 25 percent of Poles surveyed to be strongly antisemitic, 56 percent to be against antisemitism and the remaining 20 percent somewhere in between.

"Antisemitism in Poland is as widespread as it is superficial," said Konstanty Gebert, a Jewish Forum Foundation member and well-known journalist who will launch a Jewish cultural magazine in Warsaw next month.

"Living as a Jew in Poland isn't such a big deal, particularly if you live in the city. The point is: You have to put up with stuff. You can hear some very nice people say hideous things."

It is that kind of understanding, and realism, that callers seek when they dial the hot line. Because the hot line is anonymous and confidential, outsiders are not allowed to listen in.

But counselors, middle-aged Poles who have known of their Jewish roots for years and have been trained to listen and advise, recount these stories from the last few weeks: A middle-aged

woman called to say she just found out her mother was Jewish. So that means she also is Jewish, right? But she doesn't feel Jewish. What does it mean to feel Jewish?

A man said he just found out his father was Jewish.

The man is 35 and a deeply religious Christian. Does he have to change his life? Another

more. Different people have different needs.

Callers are guaranteed anonymity to battle an overwhelming fear, counselors said. They are afraid of labels and slurs.

They are afraid of small extremist political groups that, even as mainstream Polish parties condemn antisemitism, remain hostile to minorities.

They are afraid, in this overwhelmingly Catholic nation, of not being Polish as defined by their local priest, or not being Polish enough for politicians such as Solidarity leader Marian Krzaklewski, who, discussing the proposed constitution before Parliament this week, equated Poland's values with Christian values.

They are also afraid to seek out Jewish organizations on their own, Zachariasz said, afraid of the unknown. "It cuts both ways," she said. "They think: Will they accept me? Will I be Jewish enough for them?"

"In Poland, to learn that a member of your family died in concentration camps is not unusual. Many people died. It's almost inconsequential," Zachariasz said. But callers who realize now that their families died for their Jewishness find that it "does mean something," she added.

"For them," she said, "their search for understanding becomes a way to acknowledge, and to let them live on."

(The Washington Post)

"What Madeleine Albright found out in America is happening every day in Poland."

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Striking at survivors

The government has decided to cut funding for Holocaust survivor groups, Elli Wohlgelernter reports

While the government is negotiating with Switzerland to recover money taken from Jews in the Holocaust, it is simultaneously taking away money to help those who survived.

Last week, the two organizations that deal with Holocaust survivors, the National Israeli Center for Psychosocial Support for Survivors of the Holocaust and the Second Generation (AMCHA) and Keren Artzi, were informed by the Ministry of Finance that its budget allocation for 1997 was being cut back.

The Health Ministry, which also provides funds to the survivor's organizations, has also cut back funding to NIS 100,000 for this year.

Danny Hanoch, a survivor of Auschwitz, Dachau and Mauthausen, is naturally upset. "We are not strong, we are not demonstrating, nobody is paying attention to us because we are not a power. I'm from the youngest [survivors], and I'm already 65."

"This [budget cut] is unfair. What can we do? Only cry for a little bit and that's all. This is a sin and an ugly step by the government," he added.

The government's budgetary allocation to the 300,000 Holocaust survivors who live here has been decreasing. In 1994, the Finance Ministry provided NIS 4 million for the two organizations, of which AMCHA received NIS 400,000; in 1996, it was cut to NIS 1.5 million, with NIS 150,000 going to AMCHA.

"It's obscene," said Jonathan Lemberger, director of AMCHA. "To cut it to zero, or very close to zero, is not only a further embarrassment, but also goes against all the pronouncements of Jewish leaders, from the prime minister on down, who are speaking about the return of Jewish assets, or Jewish property, or Jewish gold, and claiming that the needs of

Holocaust survivors are at the forefront of their mind and should be addressed immediately, and should not wait for commissions and committees and investigations. It's a slap in the face to the survivors.

"Besides the money, it's a moral issue," Lemberger continues. "We feel that the State of Israel, which has the highest number of survivors, should be doing much more than it is already doing, and should at least be supporting the two organizations that deal directly with survivors needs. These are the only funds in the country that are specifically for survivors. That the Israeli government shouldn't support [us] is ridiculous."

According to Health Ministry spokesman Ephraim Lahav, budgetary considerations have forced the ministry to reassess how they spend their money.

"We prefer to buy services rather than to support voluntary organizations," he said. "At the same time, the ministry is examining its policies regarding funding for these groups."

Motti Sherf, a spokesman for the Finance Ministry, blamed the cuts on Avraham Shohat, the previous finance minister under the Labor government.

Sherf said the ministry is reassessing its priorities, and funding could be restored next year.

But the needs are immediate and as the survivors age their needs can only increase. Lemberger said his caseload, which currently totals about 2,000 people, has been growing 25 to 30 percent a year for the last four years. His organization can't keep up with the demands for services, which he expects to increase from 38,000 service hours in 1996 to 48,000 this year.

While AMCHA provides psychological and social support to survivors and their children,

Keren Artzi was set up as a fund to help provide for the welfare of survivors, helping them obtain eyeglasses, hearing aids, prosthetic devices, dental care and the like. It has helped in over 10,000 cases since it was founded three years ago.

Yitzhak Artzi, chairman of the fund, said of the cutbacks by the government: "It's a scandal, and I'm ashamed that these are the priorities of the Israeli government."

He said that many survivors "received from the Israeli government less than they would have gotten if they had gotten their money from the German government." Of AMCHA's total annual budget of NIS 10.6 million, the government was providing only five percent. The rest, said Lemberger, comes from clients' fees, fundraising abroad and from other countries, including Austria, Germany, Holland, the EU, and from an endowment set up by the former East Germany.

Switzerland also gave a one-time grant last year to AMCHA for immediate help to survivors, which was separate from the country's current attempts to resolve the litigation over gold and property claims.

So if other countries are giving, asks Lemberger, where is Israel? "We have always said this [money] is ridiculous and not enough. But when you cut that, it undermines the efforts of AMCHA to the individuals, to the institutions, to the foundations, to try to fund raise for Israeli survivors."

For survivor Danny Hanoch, these budget cuts from the government are especially painful. "There are governments in the world who are providing gratis these kinds of services for first and second generations, like in Holland and Germany. If you are a Holocaust survivor [there] you are entitled to similar services given free by the government. To take away from such an important service given to the Holocaust survivors is a very unfair step. It hurts every one of us."

DEAR RUTHIE

Fallen for best friend's ex-husband

By RUTHIE BLUM

Dear Ruthie, I have been in love with the ex-husband of a close friend for five years. Let me explain. I first met him through my son who was in school with his son. I was then married, and he was divorced. Since then, I got divorced and he moved in with a woman. In the meantime, I became close with his ex-wife. At first, I couldn't tell her that he and I had had an affair, but now I feel like a liar when I'm around her. For one thing, she tells me stories about him all of the time... and I listen eagerly. Mostly, these are complaints about his behavior towards her since the divorce regarding money and his visits with the kids. But sometimes they are even more personal — about his having been unfaithful to her when she was pregnant, for example.

Now, I see this man about once a month (when he comes to see his kids); occasionally, we go to bed together. I am crazy about him, but

he doesn't know what he wants. Should I continue to keep my relationship with him a secret from my friend? Sometimes I think that the only time I'll have to reveal any of this to her is when (or if) I end up actually having a real relationship with him — one which is public. At other times, though, I feel that I am being very disloyal to a woman whom I genuinely care about.

Cornered Confidante
Somewhere in Israel
Dear CC,

Before deciding whether to reveal your secret, you must examine two different issues.

The first is the nature of your relationship with this woman. Since your friendship developed after you became involved with her ex-husband, it may be that some form of curiosity on your part caused you to take an interest in her. Subsequently, after becoming close friends, you continued to listen to stories about the man you are in love with — unbeknownst to the teller of the tales. Ask yourself whether the main reason you spend time with this woman has more to do with her ex-husband than

with her company.

The second issue with which to contend is the price you will pay for either choice. If you opt to remain silent, you are likely to continue to feel disloyal to your friend — particularly if the relationship you are having with her ex-husband is an ongoing one (no matter how infrequent). If, on the other hand, you decide to tell her about the affair, she is likely to feel hurt by your previous silence. Such a revelation might end the friendship on the spot.

Finally, if the only reason you are contemplating coming clean is a sense your clandestine affair is about to "go public," then it makes no real difference whether you speak now or wait until later. This is because of one sad but simple little fact in the event that you end up actually committed to this man (i.e. married to him or living with him) your friendship with his ex-wife is bound to be doomed anyway.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

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BUSINESS

in brief

Poolim sets up foreign trade financing firm

Poolim Capital Markets, a subsidiary of Bank Hapoalim, has established a foreign trade financing firm in partnership with BB Aval, the international financing arm of Berliner Bank of Germany. The new company will specialize in financing export transactions worldwide, especially to developing markets like South America and Eastern Europe. BB Aval specializes in financing short- and long-term export transactions, as well as provision of foreign trade insurance coverage. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

Eisenberg receives award from Germany



Israel Corporation Ltd. chairman Shaul Eisenberg was awarded the Commanders Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany last night for his contribution to Israeli-German relations. The Eisenberg Group has extensive dealings with Germany and in other countries, particularly in the Far East.

David Harris

Barak dialing consortium seeks central role

Barak, the new overseas dialing consortium, can serve as a central telecommunications point between the Middle East and the US, managing director Avi Pattir said this week. Speaking before a Hyatt Hotel dinner Barak hosted in Jerusalem for the President's Conference of Major American Jewish Organizations, Pattir said its connections to the Global One network can offer "advanced yet affordable telecom services to all our neighbors." He noted that Israel is best suited to take advantage of the telecommunications boom, as Israelis "love to talk" and its engineers and developers are a leading force in the world of inventions and new applications in the field. *Judy Siegel*

German nature journalists visit

Tourism is for the birds, at least that is the hope of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI), and Lufthansa, which are sponsoring a visit of eight leading German nature journalists. The journalists, who are due to arrive today, are to visit the reforested area of the Hula Valley, the wintering place of some 14,000 cranes, and thus a possible destination for hundreds of thousands of German birdwatchers. Also involved in the visit is Euronature, an organization which promotes ecologically sustainable tourism development and which has a special Near East project, to promote ecological cooperation between Israel, the Palestinians, Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon. *Haim Shapiro*

COMPANY RESULTS

Elsint suffers 44% drop in net income

Elsint Ltd., a Haifa-based subsidiary of Elbit Medical Imaging, has reported a 44-percent slide in net income to \$8.1 million from \$14.5m. in 1995. Revenues rose 10% to \$311.4m. from \$281.9m. Fourth quarter net income fell 59% to \$1.5m. from \$3.7m. Revenue for the quarter rose 5% to \$85.3m. from \$81.1m. in the same quarter of 1995.

Elsint CEO, Jonathan Adereth attributed the drop in income to excessive spending. In particular, increased research and development expenditures, investments in new electronic systems and reorganization costs tied to the company's demerger from Elbit Ltd. caused the drop. *Jennifer Friedlin*

Elbit reports 26% drop in annual net profits

Elbit Systems Ltd. reported a 26% drop in annual net profits to \$18 million from \$24.4m. in 1995. Revenues for the year advanced 3% to \$307.5m. from \$299.8m. The defense contractor's fourth quarter net profits fell 11% to \$6.5m. from \$7.3m.

Revenues for the quarter jumped 32% to \$96.7m. from \$73.3m. in the same period last year. *Jennifer Friedlin*

Bank Leumi (UK) more than doubles net profit

Bank Leumi (UK), a subsidiary of Bank Leumi, more than doubled its net profit last year to \$7.6 million from \$3.25m. in 1995. Net return on equity on an annual basis increased to 8% from 3.6%. The bank's shareholders equity for 1996 reached \$57.68 billion. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

US lawyers to sue Generali over refusal to pay Holocaust victims

By DAVID HARRIS

A US law firm is making final arrangements to sue four insurance companies, including Assicurazioni Generali, over their alleged refusal to pay out on life insurance policies of Holocaust victims. MK Avraham Herschson (Likud) revealed yesterday.

Knesset Insurance sub-committee chairman Michael Kleiner (Gesher) called on Generali to act swiftly to deal with the claims of "dozens, possibly hundreds" of families of victims toward which Generali has claimed it has no legal obligation.

Generali is currently finalizing terms for the purchase of Migdal Insurance from Bank Leumi for more than \$300 million.

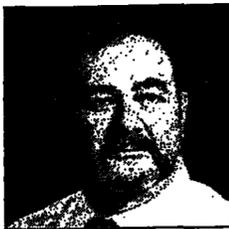
"It is outside my jurisdiction to clarify the validity of the claims," Insurance Commissioner Doron Shorer told the sub-committee. "But it will be a disgrace if they take action in the US and we don't," said Herschson, who heads the Knesset Restitution of Jewish

Property sub-committee.

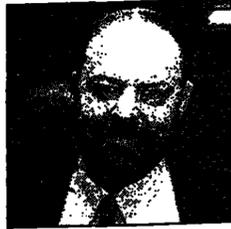
Kleiner and Herschson called on the Knesset Finance Committee's legal adviser to investigate Shorer's powers. If the existing law does not give Shorer the power to act in the Generali affair, new legislation must be swiftly introduced to change his rights, MK Nissim Dahan (Shas) said. "It is unacceptable that Jewish property is ownerless while when we have a state of our own," he added.

Representing 25 families, only three of which have actual policies, lawyer Elisheva Ansbacher told the committee she has received no concrete replies from Generali with regard to any of the policies and letters she has forwarded.

Until now Italian-based Generali, referring to its interests in Czechoslovakia, has said it has no legal obligation because claims had to be made with proof of death and prior to the seizing of Generali assets by the Czech government in the 1940s. Eventually, Generali received



Avraham Herschson



Michael Kleiner (Isaac Harari)

more than \$8 million in compensation from the Czechs, but only some 6% of that total is the pro rata value of Generali's life insurance business, according to company legal representative Amihud Ben-Porat.

However, 10 days ago Ansbacher received a copy of a Polish document which suggests Generali was liable to pay out, not only against its assets in Poland but from around the world.

Ben-Porat yesterday accused journalists from the Italian ANSA agency of lying in their claim that the company has a five-storey warehouse in Trieste containing tens of thousands of policies, some of which must be those that have not been honored by Generali.

Ben-Porat reminded the committee of Generali's interests in Israel, which pre-date the establishment of the state. "This is the only international [insurance]

company that has showed great faith in Israel," said Ben-Porat. "The current cash deal, if paid in a lump sum, is so substantial it could lead to a revaluation of the shekel."

The insurance sub-committee is scheduled to meet again next Wednesday to reconsider the issue if Generali responds to any of the claims during the week.

Meanwhile, Shorer used the opportunity to deny media reports that he is attempting to impede the Migdal deal by demanding the right to veto the appointment of board members. "I don't know where they got this from, but it is incorrect."

Migdal, however, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that "we were informed of the supervisor of insurance's difficult demands two weeks ago. The demands have resulted in a standstill in negotiations."

Ben-Porat expects the deal to be signed within the next few weeks, "but the goodwill has been lost because of the policies affair."



Protest in Hong Kong

Protesters, wearing paper-plate masks, stage a rally outside Hong Kong's Legislative Council yesterday to ask for assistance regarding properties they bought in mainland China. Some 200 buyers, claiming that property developers never completed the apartments they bought in China, also marched to the office of Chief Executive-designate Tung Chee Hwa for assistance. *(Reuters)*

Sharansky invites reps of world's largest firms

By DAVID HARRIS

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky is to invite the heads of 14 of the world's largest multinational companies to visit Israel over the coming weeks, his ministry announced yesterday.

The as yet unnamed entrepreneurs will be encouraged to invest in development areas nationwide.

The companies will be approached via Israel's economic attaches in their home countries in the Far East, Europe and North America.

None of the companies, according to a ministry source, have existing links here and are not on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's "shopping list" of businessmen he wants to attract this year.

In order to customize the approach to each of the multinationals, the ministry's Center for Business Promotion is compiling special reports on economic activity here and the latest developments in the fields relevant to each company.

The reports will be sent in Sharansky's name to the CEO of each of the target firms with an invitation to visit and learn first hand what Israel has to offer.

The companies being approached largely deal with biotechnology, communications, medical equipment, electro-optics, software and environmental improvement.

At the same time, Netanyahu's office is attempting to persuade existing big-name investors to increase their interests in Israel.

Among those on Netanyahu's list are Wall Street financier George Soros, Microsoft Corp. president Bill Gates, Itocuh Corp. president Minoru Murofushi, Sara Lee Corp. chairman John Bryan, Lyonnaise des Eaux SA CEO Jerome Monod, Siemens AG CEO Heinrich von Pierer, General Motors Corp. president John Smith and General Electric Co. chairman John Welch.

Insurance agents launch PR blitz to counter penetration of market

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The Association of Insurance Agents has embarked on an advertising campaign to inform the public of the vital role agents play as consultants in the field, association president Ze'ev Viner said at a press conference yesterday.

Over the last few months new companies have been trying to enter the direct insurance market following the success of Direct Insurance.

"Without an insurance agent you are never safe" is the campaign slogan. The association representatives said they support the supervisor of insurance's intention to subject agents to proper training.

In many cases, insurance companies sell standard insurance packages which do not give an

answer to customers' real needs, Viner said, explaining it is the agents' job to advise customers on issues related to health, property and life and make sure policies meet individuals requirements.

The association has hired an external consultant to examine what must be included in a standard insurance policy.

The conclusions of the report will be transferred to the supervisor of insurance within two months. The association criticized Migdal Insurance company's plans to compel automobile policy holders to use garages approved by the company in appraising auto damage.

"I was astonished to discover that Migdal intends to compel customers to use its garages instead of relying on qualified appraisers," Viner said.

Commenting on the different devices insurance firms require car owners to install in vehicles to prevent car thefts, Viner said the association has hired a con-

sultant to define and list the devices necessary for different types of cars.

Currently, each insurance firm has its own requirements, making it complicated for car owners to move from one insurance firm to another.

The association hopes the list will be used by all insurance firms.

The association called on Finance Minister Dan Meridor to separate the sale of complementary insurance policies from the insurance coverage health funds provide as part of the state health basket.

It is necessary to build a "Chinese wall" between the supplementary insurance and state insurance coverage, Viner said.

In two weeks the association is scheduled to hold its annual Bituchim conference, which this year will take place in Jerusalem.

The conference will focus on the role of the life insurance agent in a changing market and health insurance.

Hotels to get their stars back

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav yesterday informed the country's hoteliers that the stars which the ministry took away from the hotels exactly five years ago are to be reintroduced.

Speaking to the biennial Hotel Association conference, Katsav told the hoteliers that after careful study he had reached the conclusion that a system of grading hotels would contribute to the tourism industry.

He added that in contrast to the past, when the grading was carried out by the ministry, this time it would be done by an independent evaluator.

"I don't say that the Tourism Ministry will do it. We will probably take an outside agency," Katsav said.

Jordan Central takes over Amman Investment Bank

AMMAN (Reuters) - Jordan's Central Bank has taken control of troubled Amman Investment Bank to help restore its finances ahead of an anticipated takeover by another bank, bankers said this week.

Banking sources said a seven-man committee headed by senior Central Bank official Ahmad Abdel-Fattah was now charged with the day-to-day supervision and management of the bank.

The decision, which was taken in a board meeting of the Central Bank over the week-end, effectively puts the loss-making bank, one of Jordan's six investment banks, under its custody.

The star system had been abolished following complaints that hotels retained their stars, often as a result of political or other pressure, even after the level of service and physical upkeep deteriorated.

Those favoring the system have pointed out that foreign tour organizers and their clients need an objective scale to know the level of hotel.

However, many of the hoteliers were less than happy with Katsav's announcement. Raphael Farber, a former ministry director-general and president of Days Inn Israel, said the decision was impractical, since no local agency was qualified to grade the hotels and no foreign body would carry out the day-to-day supervision necessary to make the system work properly.

He also argued that it contravened the free market principles of

the present government.

"A government that favors less intervention in the private sector should not intervene in this matter," Farber said.

Hotel Association president Michael Federman said the industry was better off without grading, but he understood that the consumers found it easier. He too stressed that if there was to be grading, it would have to be by an independent body, free from pressures by the hotel.

| ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|-----------|--|
| Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96) | | | | |
| Currency (deposit for) | 3 MONTHS | 6 MONTHS | 12 MONTHS | |
| U.S. dollar (\$250,000) | 4.750 | 5.000 | 5.275 | |
| U.S. dollar (\$50,000) | 4.775 | 5.025 | 5.300 | |
| Pound sterling (£100,000) | 3.875 | 4.000 | 4.250 | |
| German mark (DM 200,000) | 1.625 | 1.825 | 2.025 | |
| Swiss franc (SF 200,000) | 0.625 | 0.750 | 1.000 | |
| Yen (10 million yen) | - | - | - | |

| Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (5.3.97) | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------|-----------|------|-----------|
| CURRENCY BASKET | CHECKS AND TRANSFERS | | BANKNOTES | | Avg. Rate |
| | Buy | Sell | Buy | Sell | |
| U.S. dollar | 3.6100 | 3.6683 | 3.27 | 3.44 | 3.6570 |
| German mark | 3.3331 | 3.3889 | 1.91 | 2.01 | 1.9650 |
| Pound sterling | 1.8453 | 1.8787 | 5.28 | 5.54 | 5.4250 |
| French franc | 5.3747 | 5.4814 | 0.59 | 0.62 | 0.6024 |
| Japanese yen (100) | 0.5767 | 0.5851 | 0.58 | 0.60 | 0.5824 |
| Dutch florin | 2.7413 | 2.7856 | 2.88 | 2.93 | 2.7751 |
| Swiss franc | 1.7239 | 1.7579 | 1.70 | 1.73 | 1.7406 |
| Spanish peseta | 2.2417 | 2.2779 | 2.20 | 2.21 | 2.2081 |
| Swedish krona | 0.4346 | 0.4417 | 0.42 | 0.43 | 0.4387 |
| Norwegian krona | 0.4774 | 0.4852 | 0.48 | 0.50 | 0.4855 |
| Danish krone | 0.5101 | 0.5194 | 0.50 | 0.51 | 0.5151 |
| Finland mark | 0.6513 | 0.6619 | 0.64 | 0.66 | 0.6559 |
| Canadian dollar | 2.4338 | 2.4731 | 2.39 | 2.51 | 2.4587 |
| Australian dollar | 2.8148 | 2.8570 | 2.87 | 2.92 | 2.8943 |
| S. African rand | 0.7491 | 0.7612 | 0.67 | 0.77 | 0.7587 |
| Belgian franc (10) | 0.8432 | 0.8586 | 0.82 | 0.86 | 0.8428 |
| Austrian schilling (10) | 2.7842 | 2.8068 | 2.71 | 2.86 | 2.7911 |
| Italian lira (1000) | 1.9523 | 1.9838 | 1.91 | 2.02 | 1.9718 |
| Jordanian dinar | 4.6400 | 4.8000 | 4.84 | 4.95 | 4.7475 |
| Egyptian pound | 0.9500 | 1.0300 | 0.95 | 1.03 | 1.0011 |
| ECU | 3.7819 | 3.8429 | 3.71 | 3.82 | 3.8000 |
| Irish punt | 5.2107 | 5.2948 | 5.12 | 5.37 | 5.2572 |
| Spanish peseta (100) | 2.3042 | 2.3414 | 2.28 | 2.38 | 2.3213 |

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Redemption Price: 113.56

leumi pia לרשימת



TAKE ROUNDUP

Shares close higher

Mishtanim 255.82 ▲ 0.81%

Maof 263.3 ▲ 0.10%

By ROBERT DANIEL

Stocks closed higher yesterday, following the rise on Wall Street of Teva.

The shekel weakened against the dollar, potentially helping Israeli exporters.

State-controlled telecom-services company Bezeq dropped

1.75 percent to NIS 8.51, holding back the Maof Index. "New York is still strong" for the Israeli shares, even after the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 1% on Tuesday, said Debra Kodish, an analyst at Zebra Securities in Ramat Gan.

Kodish said Israeli companies' earnings season starts in earnest now and she's looking for bank stocks to be particularly strong.

The Mishtanim Index of 100 most-traded issues rose 0.81% to 255.82, while the Maof Index of 25 top stocks rose 0.1% to 263.38. In the broad market,

nearby nine issues rose for every one that fell.

The Maof and Mishtanim reached their respective life highs of 277.73 and 270.57 on February 18.

Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 106.8m. of shares traded.

That's about even with the month's daily average of NIS 106.1m. and 33% below the year's average of NIS 159m.

Among the arbitrage issues, Teva, which accounts for 9.5% of the Maof, rose 2% to NIS 212.47.

(Bloomberg)

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

LAST CHANGE

Table with 2 columns: Share Name, Change. Includes Amex, Nasdaq, and Mishtanim.

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TAKE ISSUES

LAST CHANGE

Table with 2 columns: Share Name, Change. Lists top 100 Mishtanim issues.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

LAST CHANGE

NEW YORK

LAST CHANGE

Large table listing international shares with columns for share name and change.

AMEX

LAST CHANGE

Table with 2 columns: Share Name, Change. Lists Amex shares.

NASDAQ

LAST CHANGE

Table with 2 columns: Share Name, Change. Lists Nasdaq shares.

U.S. STOCKS

LAST CHANGE

Table with 2 columns: Share Name, Change. Lists U.S. stocks.

U.S. STOCKS

LAST CHANGE

Table with 2 columns: Share Name, Change. Lists U.S. stocks.

NYSE

LAST CHANGE

Table with 2 columns: Share Name, Change. Lists NYSE shares.

NYSE

LAST CHANGE

Table with 2 columns: Share Name, Change. Lists NYSE shares.

NYSE

LAST CHANGE

Table with 2 columns: Share Name, Change. Lists NYSE shares.

NYSE

LAST CHANGE

Table with 2 columns: Share Name, Change. Lists NYSE shares.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

European bourses score records

LONDON (Reuters) - Major European bourses hit record levels yesterday, after US central bank head Alan Greenspan soothed investors' worst fears for now, before closing below their highest levels for the day.

The London and Paris stock markets rebounded to scale new peaks after Greenspan, who has spooked investors on various occasions with warning comments, again denied he was trying to talk Wall Street down.

He said current share price levels could be justified if earnings forecasts were right.

German shares rose further in after-hours electronic trading to add to a record close in earlier floor trade, aided by a steady dollar, good news for exporters.

"There are some decent volumes there and the greenback is helping, especially with the exporters. The slogan at the moment seems to be - enjoy it and let the cash roll in," said Josh Waiblinger of equity sales at BHF Bank in Frankfurt.

Gold slid to end London trading below \$353, down around \$7 on the day, on news of Swiss plans to sell gold from reserves to finance a fund for Holocaust victims and others.

Bullion analysts said the amount involved was unlikely to be large compared with overall market turnover but the news added to the pressure on gold.

Concern that central banks would sell gold to help meet the economic criteria for joining European economic and monetary union had dented the gold price in past months.

The London stock market, Europe's busiest, had opened lower after a 60-point fall in the Dow Jones industrial average overnight and some disappointing corporate results.

Greenspan's reassuring comments later helped it climb into previously uncharted territory although weaker bond prices then brought it down from its highs.

French shares also recovered from early losses to hit a record close but were below an earlier historic high scored after a rally underpinned by dollar strength and the rise on Wall Street, dealers said.

WALL STREET REPORT

Stocks rise as Greenspan eases market fears

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks closed sharply higher yesterday after Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan's latest comments seemed to ease fears the central bank might be planning some action to slow the stock market's rise.

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average closed up 93.13 points, or 1.36 percent, at 6,945.85. In the broader market, advancing issues beat declines 15-9 on active volume of 531 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

WHERE TO GO

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Medical help for tourists (in English)

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Wizo hotlines for battered women

02-651-4111, 03-546-1133 (also in Russian), 07-637-6310, 08-855-0508 (also in Amharic). Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men), Netanya 625-5558, Haifa 853-0533, Elit 633-1977. Hadassah Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association support service 02-624-7876.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Sheara Zedek (internal, outpatients); Hadassah Ein Karem (surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology, ENT); Eilat Holim (pediatrics). Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (surgery). Netanya: Laniado.

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FOREIGN FINANCIAL DATA

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds. 34 Ben Yehuda St., Jerusalem. Tel. 02-624-4963. Fax 02-624-4963.

TEL AVIV SHARES DATA

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Imperious United sweeps Porto aside

MANCHESTER (Reuters) - Manchester United virtually guaranteed themselves a place in the European Cup semifinals for the first time since 1969 when they imperiously crushed Porto 4-0 in the first leg of their quarter-final last night.

United's outstanding performance was highlighted by goals from David May (22nd), Eric Cantona (34th), Ryan Giggs (61st) and Andy Cole (80th) and evoked memories of their greatest victory which came in the 1968 European Cup final against Porto's Portuguese rivals Benfica.

Porto, who had won all three away matches in the Champions' League phase of the competition, were simply overwhelmed for much of the match.

The first goal came when David Beckham's long cross was headed on by Gary Pallister. Goalkeeper Hilario failed to hold the ball and May swept it home from close range.

The outstanding Cantona made it two when he took advantage of a mistake by Aloisio to lash the ball under Hilario's body from 12 metres and Giggs completed the 21-year-old goalkeeper's personal nightmare when he failed to stop a shot from Giggs squeezing past him on his near post.

Cantona was the provider for Cole to score United's fourth.

Cup holders Juventus were held to a 1-1 draw by the Norwegian part-timers of Rosenborg in Trondheim.

The Italian league leaders, badly hit by injuries and looking sluggish



Mr. DEPENDABLE - Manchester United captain Eric Cantona shoots past Porto defender Paulinho Santos to score United's second goal at Old Trafford last night.

in the freezing Norwegian night, were unable to put on a convincing performance as they struggled with a physically powerful Rosenborg who continue to surprise in this

year's competition. In the two other quarter-final first legs, Borussia Dortmund of Germany beat Auxerre of France 3-1. Karlsruhe (12), Rene

Schneider (54), Andreas Moeller (82) scored for the home team, Auxerre's goal was scored by Sabri Lamouchi (75). Ajax Amsterdam and Atletico

Madrid drew 1-1 in Amsterdam. Patrick Kluitert equalized for the hosts in the 53rd minute after Juan Esnaider scored for Atletico in the eighth minute.

March madness hits Maccabi TA

Game 1 of best-of-three Final 16 series against Efes Pilsen tips off at 6 p.m.

By BRIAN FREEMAN

Back in 1992, few could imagine that when Doron Jamchov slipped to the floor instead of getting off a last-second shot which could have given the Israelis a victory over Estudiantes Madrid in the third and decisive game of the quarterfinal series that it would mark the end of Maccabi Tel Aviv's era as a prominent European basketball power.

That era - a 15-year-period during which the blue and yellow won two European titles, went to the championship game five other times and made an additional trip to the Final Four - was followed by a four-year drought.

Tonight in Istanbul against Efes Pilsen, however, Maccabi plays in the championships this late in the season for the first time since that ill-fated 1992 series, intent on continuing the path to reclaiming a spot as an elite club.

Game 2 in the Final 16 matchup will be on Tuesday at Yad Eliahu, followed by a return trip to Istanbul next Thursday if a deciding contest is needed.

Back in the golden era, the only time Maccabi faced Turkish teams was as a pushover in the preliminary rounds en route to the final pool.

It has already been a few seasons now since Efes Pilsen emerged on the European scene as a power to be reckoned with. However, the team's success in the Euro League has never translated into more than an appearance in the quarterfinals, and Efes Pilsen is intent on becoming the first Turkish club to reach the Final Four.

The team has certainly shown it is one of Europe's best this season, finishing 12-4 in the final pool and earning one of the four first-place spots.

It has been particularly difficult on its home court, winning all eight contests in Istanbul.

But in 1993/94, its first appearance in the final pool, Efes Pilsen

also finished first in its group but proceeded to lose to Barcelona in the best-of-three quarterfinals, despite the home-court advantage. The following year it just missed out on the quarterfinals and last season did not qualify for the main tournament, although it did capture the lesser Korac Cup with a victory over Stefanel Milan in the final.

The club consolidated its sturdy base during the off season by bringing in CSKA guard Vassilij Karashev, who has become the Turks' main three-point threat at 49.2 percent. His scoring average of 13.6 is second on the team behind the team's most complete player, star point guard Petar Naumoski.

Naumoski is fifth in the Euro League with a 21.3 scoring average, dishes out 4.7 assists and has 2.5 steals a contest.

He is also an outside threat and has an 88% accuracy rate from the free-throw line, where he averages a team-high 6.8 attempts a game (Oded Katash goes to the line the most for Maccabi with only four attempts per contest).

Mirsad Turkcan and Ufuk Sarica are two other key players who score in double figures for the Turks.

For Maccabi, everyone is fit, a welcome relief from the injury problems that have hampered consistent play from the Israelis during the final pool.

Maccabi clearly faces a major challenge, as it has not won on the road since defeating Stefanel Milan back in November.

Everyone will have to contribute and players such as Randy White - who has scored an impressive 23 points a game on 56.6% shooting from the field in the last three home contests but only 16 points a game on 37.7% shooting in the past three road games - will have to have a big series in Istanbul if Maccabi hopes to advance.

The game is scheduled to be broadcast live on Channel 1 starting at 6 p.m.

Maccabi Tel Aviv's European statistics

| Player | Scoring average | Minutes per game | 2-point shooting | 3-point shooting | Free throws |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Randy White | 15.4 | 30.8 | 55.5% (91-164) | 36.0% (9-25) | 85.7% (68-79) |
| Buck Johnson | 14.3 | 35.3 | 52.8% (88-167) | 15.3% (2-13) | 74.0% (40-52) |
| Doron Sheffer | 11.8 | 29.3 | 49.5% (83-168) | 42.2% (19-45) | 75.8% (38-50) |
| Oded Katash | 10.1 | 24.8 | 28.6% (17-59) | 37.7% (23-31) | 90.8% (27-30) |
| Nadav Henefeld | 7.4 | 30.2 | 50.6% (40-79) | 50.0% (8-12) | 63.9% (23-36) |
| Brad Lea | 7.2 | 18.2 | 42.6% (20-47) | 46.7% (7-15) | 100% (2-2) |
| Sotko Radovic | 5.0 | 14.1 | 50.0% (18-36) | 23.5% (4-17) | 85.7% (17-20) |
| Derrick Sharp | 4.3 | 17.3 | 54.5% (12-22) | 25.9% (7-27) | 88.2% (15-17) |
| Constantin Popa | 3.9 | 10.9 | 51.1% (23-45) | 0% (0-0) | 81.3% (13-16) |

Efes Pilsen's European statistics

| Player | Scoring average | Minutes per game | 2-point shooting | 3-point shooting | Free throws |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Petar Naumoski | 21.3 | 38.7 | 56.7% (91-160) | 45.9% (50-109) | 86.0% (68-79) |
| Vassilij Karashev | 19.8 | 33.4 | 50.7% (98-193) | 41.7% (32-77) | 79.0% (40-52) |
| Mirsad Turkcan | 11.7 | 28.2 | 49.5% (83-168) | 42.2% (19-45) | 75.8% (38-50) |
| Ufuk Sarica | 10.6 | 30.6 | 45.6% (22-49) | 36.4% (32-88) | 67.7% (21-31) |
| Derrick Alston | 10.0 | 23.6 | 50.0% (22-44) | 0% (0-1) | 58.3% (10-17) |
| Tarner Oyug | 6.5 | 23.3 | 51.8% (44-85) | 0% (0-0) | 72.7% (16-22) |
| Mark Pope | 5.7 | 20.2 | 43.8% (18-41) | 36.9% (7-19) | 90.9% (18-20) |
| Huseyin Besok | 4.9 | 13.4 | 50.0% (22-44) | 0% (0-0) | 77.4% (24-31) |
| Murat Evliyoglu | 4.8 | 13.3 | 56.3% (9-16) | 39.5% (15-38) | 100% (6-6) |
| Volkan Aydin | 3.7 | 14.0 | 52.6% (10-19) | 22.2% (6-27) | 78.9% (10-13) |

Monaco takes giant leap toward UEFA Cup semifinals

LONDON (Reuters) - French league leaders Monaco took a giant step towards the semifinals of the UEFA Cup on Tuesday night when they outplayed Newcastle at St James' Park to win 1-0 in a quarter-final first leg tie.

Internationale, chasing their third UEFA Cup title in seven seasons, also scored a vital away goal at Anderlecht to draw 1-1 after trailing for most of the match.

In the other two quarter-finals Spain's UEFA Cup representatives both lost. Valencia went down 2-0 at Schalke of Germany while Tenerife lost 1-0 to Brondby in the Canary Islands.

Monaco's victory, their fourth in their four away UEFA Cup ties this season, came courtesy of a goal from striker "Sonny" Anderson just before the hour.

Teenager Thierry Henry scampered free on the right, carried the ball to the by-line and cut it back to the Brazilian who lashed a first-time shot past two Newcastle defenders and goalkeeper Shaka Hislop.

Newcastle, missing their injured £23 million strike-force of Alan Shearer and Les Ferdinand as well as suspended Colombian forward Faustino Asprilla, cre-

ated few real chances to cheer manager Kenny Dalglish on his 46th birthday.

In Belgium, Inter equalized 15 minutes from time through second-half substitute Maurizio Ganz to salvage a hard-fought draw at Anderlecht, UEFA Cup winners in 1983.

Belgian international Bruno Versavel put the home side ahead in the 27th minute with an unstoppable half volley from just outside the penalty area before Ganz levelled the scores.

Inter will now be favorites to progress to the semifinals of the competition they won in 1991 and 1994. Schalke marched towards their first European semifinal in 27 years thanks to goals from defender Thomas Linke and Belgian striker Marc Wilmots in their 2-0 defeat of four times Spanish champions Valencia.

And Brondby, who won 5-0 at Germany's Karlsruhe in the last round after losing 3-1 in Denmark, again proved they travel well by winning 1-0 in Tenerife, Ebbe Sand scoring their valuable goal.

Second leg ties are due to be played on March 18.

Ravanelli hat-trick eases 'Boro's woes

LONDON (Reuters) - Fabrizio Ravanelli scored a second-half hat-trick as Middlesbrough put their well-publicised troubles to one side and hammered Derby 6-1 in the English premier league last night.

Ravanelli struck in the 54th, 82nd and 85th minutes as 'Boro claimed their biggest league win of the season.

'Boro remained bottom of the table, however, three points behind Southampton, who clawed their way back from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 against Everton at the Dell.

Last night's other results: Chelsea, Blackburn 1; Leicester 1, Aston Villa 0; Nottingham Forest 0, Sheffield Wednesday 3; Southampton 2, Everton 2. Division one: Manchester City 1, Portsmouth 1; Stoke 3, Grimsby 1; West Bromwich 4, Southend 0.

SCOREBOARD

NEL - Tuesday's results: Tampa Bay 6, NY Islanders 3; New Jersey 3, Pittsburgh 1; Washington 2, Calgary 1; Edmonton 4, Los Angeles 1.

Sonics outscore Magic

SEATTLE (AP) - Anfernee Hardaway, after being held scoreless in the first half, had 26 points in the second half to lead the Orlando Magic to a 101-89 victory over the Seattle SuperSonics.

Rony Seikaly and Gerald Wilkins had 18 points each Tuesday night for the Magic, who improved to 7-1 under new coach Richie Adubato. The loss dropped the Sonics to 22-8 at home, where they lost only three games last season.

The Magic, who had lost to the Sonics in Orlando on Sunday, handed the Pacific Division leaders only their second loss since the All-Star break.

Pacers 98, Celtics 95
In Indianapolis, Mark Jackson's six straight free throws in the final minute helped Indiana beat Boston 98-95.

Reggie Miller had 29 points, Dale Davis added 20 points and 16 rebounds and Jackson had 12 points and 13 assists. Indiana has won four straight games - all at home - and is 4-2 since Jackson was re-acquired from Denver.

After Jackson made two more foul shots, Boston had three seconds to score. But the Celtics fumbled the ball on the inbound pass and Eric Williams' wild shot was way off at the buzzer.

Knicks 93, Bucks 86
In New York, the Knicks had a scare when Patrick Ewing injured his knee, but he returned and New York held off a late charge by Milwaukee to secure a 93-86 win.

The Knicks were leading 85-69 with 6:16 to play when Ewing headed to the lockerroom to be treated for a bruised right knee he suffered in a collision with Sherman Douglas late in the third quarter.

Milwaukee scored the next 15 points, including seven by Ray Allen and six by Glenn Robinson, before Larry Johnson converted a three-point play for an 88-84 lead with 1:28 left.

Ewing returned at that point and, after Vin Baker's jumper pulled the Bucks to 88-86, the All-Star center hit one of two foul shots for a 89-86 lead with 51 seconds left.

Robinson missed a 3-pointer to tie it and John Starks hit two foul shots with 9.6 seconds left.

Lakers 102, Mavericks 92
In Dallas, Nick Van Exel scored a season-high 37 points and tied his club record with eight 3-pointers as Los Angeles won 102-92 and avoided its first three-game losing streak of the season.

Van Exel went 8-for-15 from behind the 3-point line, matching his own franchise mark for treys set once this season and once last season.

Elden Campbell added 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers, who improved to 4-6 since center Shaquille O'Neal suffered a hyperextended left knee on Feb. 12.

Tuesday's Games: Charlotte 105, San Antonio 96; Miami 108, Detroit 99; Atlanta 86; Cleveland 88; New York 93, Milwaukee 86; Washington 107, Philadelphia 106; Indiana 98, Boston 95; Orlando 101, Seattle 89; L.A. Lakers 102, Dallas 92; Portland 123, New Jersey 118; Houston 113, L.A. Clippers 109.

Athens, Rome, Buenos Aires among 2004 Games favorites

LAUSANNE (Reuters) - Olympic chiefs start drawing up their shortlist of candidates to host the 2004 Olympics today in a decision which is likely to interest stockbrokers, builders and airline chiefs as much as sports fans - especially in favorite cities such as Athens, Rome and Buenos Aires.

The 11 cities hoping to stage the Summer Games will present their bids to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) before officials throw out the weakest on Friday and name the four, or probably five, candidates who will go forward to a vote in September.

Staging an Olympics can have a major effect on a country's economy. As well as the obvious stadiums and sporting facilities, often a whole new infrastructure has to be built.

Sponsorships deals worth millions of dollars are there to be made. Stock and currency markets can move on the decision.

It looks as though the business community of Athens, Rome, Buenos Aires, Cape Town and Stockholm will stay in the running to cash in on the biggest sporting event in the world.

The other candidates - Istanbul, Lille, Rio de Janeiro, San Juan, Seville and St Petersburg - are likely to leave Lausanne feeling disappointed after spending a great deal of money on promoting their bids.

An IOC delegation led by Germany's former fencing Olympic champion Thomas Bach has visited all the bidding cities in the last six months and produced an evaluation report on their strengths and weaknesses.

The report will play a huge role in the decision of the selection college who have to choose a minimum four candidates but can add a fifth. But politics is just as important.

Rome, Athens and Stockholm are regarded as having the strongest technical bids as far as their facilities and organization are concerned although the Greek city has airport access problems and Stockholm faces some local opposition.

After its rejection in favor of Atlanta for the 1996 Games, Athens has returned with a stronger bid, based less on "historical right" than the ability to provide a high quality event in Europe for the first time in 12 years.

Buenos Aires will probably be listed to satisfy South American interests with Cape Town doing the same for Africa.

Neither continent has previously hosted the Games but South Africa's crime problem is seen as a major disadvantage and Cape Town appears a long shot at this stage.

Istanbul officials seem to have assigned themselves to defeat earlier this week they outdented the selection procedure as undemocratic.

Eagerly awaiting the outcome are the world's money men.

In December the organizers of the 2000 Games in Sydney announced a list of 17 international and Australian firms who will provide sponsorship worth more than \$392 million.

The day after the IOC evaluation committee's report was published in February, speculation shares led an advance on the Athens bourse because it was felt the city would stay in the running.

Joseph Holtzman and Orli Lando

SPORTS

in brief

Samaranch plans to continue until 2001

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (Reuters) - Juan Antonio Samaranch, who has turned the Olympics from a troubled sporting showpiece into a billion-dollar business, wants the most powerful job in the Games movement until 2001.

Samaranch, who turns 77 in July, announced yesterday that he would stand again for re-election as International Olympic Committee (IOC) president later this year and bid for a fourth term in one of the most significant positions in sport.

If he wins, the Spaniard, who has a reputation as a diplomat as well as a shrewd businessman, has the chance to complete 21 years in office after taking over the job in 1980.

But Samaranch, who has a chance to continue at his age only because his Latin allies in the organization managed to force a vote to raise the IOC age limit in 1995, said he would be in charge for the last time at an Olympic Games in Sydney in the year 2000.

Liverpool on course to join elite

BERGEN, Norway (Reuters) - Liverpool continue their campaign to join the elite band of teams to win all three European soccer competitions when they travel to Norwegian outsiders Brann Bergen in the quarter-finals of the Cup Winners' Cup today.

The four-times European champions and double UEFA Cup winners hope to join Juventus, Barcelona, Ajax and Bayern Munich in an exclusive club and look to have the ideal draw to progress. The part-timers of Brann have not played a competitive match since October. They have spent the last two months training in warmer areas of Europe, most recently in Spain where they played against Spanish first and second division sides.

Lasorda, Fox, Wells elected to Hall of Fame

TAMPA (Reuters) - Tommy Lasorda, Nellie Fox and Negro League star Willie Wells were elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame yesterday by the Veterans Committee.

The Veterans Committee, a 15-man panel of former players, executives and media members, voted in the colorful former manager of the Dodgers, the gritty Chicago White Sox second baseman and shortstop Wells during its annual meeting.

The 69-year-old Lasorda, who stepped down as manager of the Dodgers due to health reasons last year, compiled a 1599-1439 record in 20 seasons and led Los Angeles to four National League pennants and two World Series titles.

Fox, a standout second baseman who also played for the Philadelphia Athletics and Houston, was named to 10 All-Star teams and totalled 2,663 hits in a 19-year career that ended in 1965.

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NEWS

in brief

Murdered Jaffa informant buried

Thousands of Jaffa residents and police officers attended the funeral yesterday of former police informant Solomon Mashrawi, 45, who was shot to death in his car in Jaffa late Tuesday night.

Shortly after his murder, police arrested four Jaffa residents who had argued with Mashrawi earlier that day, but released them yesterday. Police said he had made many enemies in his efforts to rid his Jaffa neighborhood of drugs. In a previous attempt on his life, a grenade was thrown at his home.

Several years ago, Mashrawi spent 18 months in jail on suspicion of murder. He was later released. Numerous police files also were opened against him, but all were closed due to lack of evidence or public interest.

Reserve duty eased for students

University students performing reserve duty will enjoy shorter appeal procedures to be exempted from a call-up, partial funding, tutoring and other benefits, the IDF announced. The changes, decided upon at a meeting yesterday with university heads, are aimed at easing the burden of reserve duty. A list of the benefits, which take effect with the next school year, is to be published soon.

Group calls for Klingberg's release

The Public Committee against Torture in Israel yesterday called on President Ezer Weizman to release on humanitarian grounds Marcus Klingberg, who was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment in the early 1980s for spying for the former Soviet Union.

"If he were younger and healthier, he would be released, in the end, from jail," the group wrote in a letter, noting Klingberg's age and failing health.

Fulbright to honor Rabin

A \$50,000 annual Fulbright Scholarship has been established to honor the memory of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, the United States-Israel Education Foundation (USIEF) announced yesterday. The award will enable a distinguished scholar or professional to research and lecture in the US in areas that exemplify Rabin's legacy, according to USIEF director Rene Taft.

Bar-On investigators plan next moves

BAR-ON

By LIAT COLLINS and Jerusalem Post Staff

Investigators probing the Bar-On Affair held what was supposed to have been a secret meeting last night with the state attorney and her aides at the Neveh Ilan resort outside Jerusalem. The conference, which soon became known to the media, aimed to sum up the progress of the investigation and indicate its next steps.

middle of next week. One person who may be questioned is Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Knesset Law Committee chairman Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) was questioned yesterday. At the end of the interview, which took place in Yahalom's Knesset office, the investigator said he had answered all questions.

Yahalom told reporters nothing new had been said. "The affair is very serious from the view of good government and any way you look at it, it is a stain on Israeli history," he said.

He repeated that he does not know whether there was any criminal deal involved and said in the past he had only quoted radio

reports - which were denied by other NRP ministers - which said there had been such a deal.

Yahalom said he has no doubt that Shas leader Aryeh Deri had been involved in the appointment of Roni Bar-On, but he "does not know if it was a criminal involvement or just improper behavior."

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi was forced to answer a parliamentary question yesterday on whether Supreme Court President Aharon Barak had blessed the appointment of Bar-On, as Hanegbi had implied to the cabinet. The question, posed by MK Nissim Dahan (Shas), received a one word response from the minister: "No."

Court justice Tsvi Tal was questioned by the team regarding a Shas claim that he had been their candidate for the post of attorney-general. Tal denied Shas had offered him the position.

Investigators yesterday also questioned Globes reporter Yoav Yitzhak, who published the protocol of the cabinet meeting at which Bar-On was appointed attorney-general. Yitzhak refused to reveal his source for the protocol.

Meanwhile, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday that, "According to my gut feeling, there will be no earthquake as a result of the investigation into the Bar-On appointment."

Court rejects petition against police

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

The High Court of Justice yesterday rejected a petition demanding the suspension of the police team investigating the Bar-On Affair on the grounds that they had leaked information.

The court also ordered the petitioner, Kfar Sava lawyer On Neiman, to pay NIS 10,000 in court costs, saying the petition had been an "act of impertinence."

Justices Mishael Cheshin, Tova Strasberg-Cohen and Dalia Dorner repeatedly chided the petitioner for his charges, without mincing their words.

Neiman said it was clear to all that details about the questioning under caution of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu were leaked, and it must have come from the police.

The leak had drastic results: the whole world heard about it via the media, the stock exchange fell and Israel's foreign relations may be affected, he said.

Neiman said he had demanded that the attorney-general open an investigation into the leaks "within 24 hours," like the investigation into the leaks over the cabinet protocol. "I requested a criminal investigation," which carries a three-year sentence for those found guilty, "and not that they suspend the policeman," Neiman said. "I turned to the High Court only after the attorney-general did not respond within 48 hours."

"Why did you not wait for the attorney-general to act? Are there no other processes other than the High Court? You seem to want to jump over all the hurdles at once," Strasberg-Cohen asked advocate Tsvi Sa'ar, representing Neiman.

Sa'ar: "It was so urgent..." Strasberg-Cohen: "One gets the impression you want to stop the police investigation [of the Bar-On Affair]."

Sa'ar: "The prime minister ordered the investigation so he clearly didn't leak it. We are talking about only three of the 20 police investiga-

tors. This could lead to the fall of the government."

Heshin (losing his patience): "Do you think we don't understand anything?"

In another court case related to the Bar-On Affair, the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday rejected a petition by Channel 2 demanding that the state make public all of the procedures that led up to the questioning of attorney Dan-Avi Yitzhak, who represented Shas MK Aryeh Deri in his fraud trial.

Judge Dan Arbel said "he could not allow the publication of the procedures that preceded the [questioning] except for the fact that the discussions related in part to the question of whether Avi-Yitzhak should or could give testimony about his discussions with the prime minister or [his director-general] Avigdor Lieberman - which the court had determined did not relate to lawyer-client confidentiality, and therefore Avi-Yitzhak was required to testify about this."

WEATHER

Jerusalem 7-11
Tel Aviv 11-17
Haifa 10-16
Tiberias 10-17
Ashdod 7-16
Sarnia 9-13
Beersheva 10-17
Dead Sea 15-21
Eilat 19-23
Golan 4-9

Forecast: Partly cloudy to cloudy.

AROUND THE WORLD

| City | Low | High | Wind | Clouds |
|--------------|-----|------|------|--------|
| Amsterdam | 04 | 12 | 54 | partly |
| Buenos Aires | 08 | 18 | 51 | clear |
| Chicago | 08 | 18 | 51 | clear |
| Copenhagen | 08 | 18 | 51 | clear |
| Hong Kong | 17 | 27 | 67 | clear |
| London | 08 | 18 | 51 | clear |
| Los Angeles | 12 | 22 | 70 | clear |
| Madrid | 08 | 18 | 51 | clear |
| Manila | 24 | 34 | 70 | clear |
| Montreal | 08 | 18 | 51 | clear |
| Moscow | 08 | 18 | 51 | clear |
| New York | 08 | 18 | 51 | clear |
| Paris | 08 | 18 | 51 | clear |
| Rome | 08 | 18 | 51 | clear |
| Stockholm | 08 | 18 | 51 | clear |
| Sydney | 12 | 22 | 70 | clear |
| Tokyo | 08 | 18 | 51 | clear |
| Vancouver | 08 | 18 | 51 | clear |
| Zurich | 08 | 18 | 51 | clear |

Winning cards

The winning cards in yesterday's daily Mifal Hapais Chance draw were the ace of spades, nine of hearts, eight of diamonds and seven of clubs.

Hammer asks UN to give legal status to Jewish cultural property

By ELDAD BECK

PARIS - The United Nations' Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) is considering granting international legal status to Jewish cultural property around the world, in order to avoid negligence, destruction or theft.

The idea was brought up by Education Minister Zevulun Hammer during a meeting here with UNESCO Secretary-General Federico Mayor. Hammer, who yesterday ended an unofficial visit to France, asked Mayor to recognize Jewish heritage - synagogues, cemeteries and Judaica - as part of the world's cultural patrimony, so it will benefit from international legal protection and all governments will be obliged to protect Jewish heritage on their soil. Such protection already has been given by UNESCO to Moslem cultural heritage around the world.

Mayor responded very positively to Hammer's proposition, and asked the Israeli government - as the representative of the Jewish people - to prepare an inventory of the patrimony in question.

Hammer told journalists that to prepare such an inventory Israel will need funding from the Diaspora, as well as detailed information about Jewish heritage, mainly in countries where there are no longer Jewish communities. One of the biggest collections of Jewish property is in Prague, where the Nazis concentrated tens of thousands of objects, which were to be exhibited in a Jewish museum once all Jews were exterminated.

This treasure was kept by Czech authorities, who only recently realized the value of the collection. In order to avoid the sale of this treasure, Mayor proposed that Israel and the Czech Republic establish a museum dedicated to the memory of the Holocaust victims.

Haifa Chemicals workers reject compromise pact

By DAVID RUDGE

The future of the giant Haifa Chemicals factory was once again in doubt yesterday, after the works committee rejected an agreement reached after marathon talks between management and senior Histadrut officials.

Angry workers at a mass meeting at the plant, which has been closed for nearly five months, accused the Histadrut of selling them out.

They charged that the agreement, aimed at ending the long-running labor dispute, was a complete capitulation to the demands of management.

"I would prefer to be out of work than work under the conditions of this agreement," said one of the employees.

"It means that some of the workers will retire and others will be sacked, without knowing what they will receive in terms of compensation, while those that remain will have to take a tremendous cut in salary," said the worker.

"On top of all of that there is a clause in this agreement which will allow management to cancel it after six months, should it so desire. It's a travesty of justice, and at best a bad joke," he added.

The workers overturned chairs and tables, and two of the employees had to be taken outside to recuperate after being overcome by

their emotions during the meeting. Under the agreement, 60 out of the firm's 500 workers would take early retirement, another 55 would be fired with preferential redundancy payments, and 20 would move onto personal contracts. The remainder would be expected to take salary cuts of up to 17 percent.

Works committee chairman David Raviv ripped up the agreement on the stage in front of the workers, maintaining that it was not what they had been fighting for, while protesters accused the Histadrut officials of being traitors.

Baruch Zaltz, head of the Histadrut's Haifa and district branch, vowed that the Histadrut would not sign any agreement with management without the approval of the workers.

A spokesman for management said that despite the works committee's rejection of the accord, they hoped that "common sense would prevail and the agreement would be signed."

Members of the works committee met with Histadrut officials last night in an effort to resolve the points which they want to improve.

If no agreement is achieved, however, there is a possibility that the owner of the company, American-based businessman Arye Genger, could decide to close down the plant.



Jerusalem happenings

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel (center) makes a point to Jerusalem Foundation chairman and former mayor Teddy Kollek (left) yesterday, at the dedication of the German section of the Wohl Rose Garden opposite the Knesset. (Bryan McBurney)

Weizman sends message to Assad

By BAT SHEVA TSUR and news agencies

President Ezer Weizman yesterday asked visiting French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette to relay an invitation to Syrian President Hafez Assad to return to the negotiating table with Israel.

It is imperative that unconditional talks begin now, otherwise it could be too late, Weizman told de Charette at Beit Hanassi, according to a participant at the meeting. The French minister reportedly heard a similar request from Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on Monday.

Despite Syrian suspicions of the French, who have traditionally had an influence in Lebanon, de Charette is expected to continue urging Assad to meet with

Netanyahu, in the realization that the Lebanese problem cannot be solved without Syrian intervention. The Syrian vice president and foreign minister were in Paris last week for talks on the subject and maintained a hardline position.

During their hour-long meeting, de Charette listened to Weizman's assessment of the Middle East situation. The French visitor reportedly came out against a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon, saying this would simply bring Hizbullah into the area. Both also expressed fears about the negative influence of Iran and Iraq in the region.

Before leaving last night for Damascus, the French foreign minister also held talks with senior Palestinian officials in Jerusalem.

De Charette did not call at the House, the unofficial Palestinian headquarters in Jerusalem. Instead, he met Faisal Husseini, the chief Palestinian representative in Jerusalem, at a women's college just next door.

Under the Oslo Accords, Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority can operate only in the autonomous areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but not in Jerusalem.

European Union foreign ministers have decided they will visit Orient House when they are on official visits to Israel; the Netanyahu government has warned that any foreign minister who does so would not be received by Israeli officials.

De Charette appeared to have avoided a confrontation by making his a "working visit" rather than an

official one, which meant that he was not bound by the EU decision.

However, his decision to meet with Husseini and other Palestinian officials at the adjacent women's art college of Al Quds University seems to have caused just as much offense.

"Those foreign ministers who wish to meet with Palestinian Authority officials in Jerusalem will not be able to meet with Israeli officials," said David Bar-Ilan, a senior aide to Netanyahu.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, de Charette criticized the government's recent decision to build a new Jewish neighborhood in the capital's Har Homa section. "I think this decision creates difficulties and certainly it is an obstacle to the peace process," de Charette said.

IAF planes raid Hizbullah targets

By DAVID RUDGE

IAF warplanes struck at Hizbullah targets in the Iqlim al-Toufah region north of the security zone yesterday, following an attack on a South Lebanese Army post in the Jezzine enclave.

The IDF Spokesman said the pilots reported accurate hits on the targets and that all the planes returned safely to their bases.

Reports from south Lebanon said two warplanes fired at least four missiles at targets in the Iqlim al-Toufah region, which is controlled by Hizbullah and is used by the organization as a base for preparing and launching attacks on the zone.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage as

a result of the air raid.

Earlier, Hizbullah gunmen opened fire with light weapons at an SLA outpost in the Jezzine enclave. There were no casualties in the incident.

Also yesterday, Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak visited Sec.-Lt. Mordechai Etzion in Haifa's Rambam Hospital where he is recovering from wounds suffered in heavy fighting near the IDF's Dabash position last Friday.

Etzion, the commander of a Merkava tank, was badly wounded during the fighting and the tank's radio operator, Sgt. Lior Shabtai, was killed. The IDF spokesman said yesterday that Etzion's condition had improved and was now described as satisfactory.

High Court presses A-G to respond to polygraph row

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The High Court of Justice issued a show-cause order yesterday giving the government and Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein 10 days to respond to issues raised when the court first heard a petition against Rubinstein's refusal to take a polygraph exam.

In February, when Justices Eliezer Goldberg, Eliahu Mazza and Dalia

Dorner heard the Movement for Quality Government in Israel's petition, they gave the government 10 days to decide between having Rubinstein take the test or eliminating the test as a requirement for all civil servants.

Instead, the government appointed a committee, headed by former justice Dov Levin, to report within 21 days to the commission the government has established to examine the desirability

of using polygraphs in the civil service, the Movement for Quality Government said.

The movement therefore submitted another petition to the High Court, saying this did not meet the court's requirements and asking for a show-cause order obligating the government to do so.

In response, the High Court gave the government and Rubinstein 10 days to

address three issues: justify Rubinstein's membership on the commission examining the use of polygraphs when he has a clear interest in its outcome; why hasn't the government ordered the General Security Service to stop requiring polygraph exams, since its use of them is selective; and why hasn't the government dropped the test in the civil service since it is not applied uniformly.

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Thursday 6:21 p.m. 6:20 p.m.

